central VOICE

FREE MAY/JUNE 2008

Central Voice Exclusive:

Dear John

By Frank Pizzoli

"This Filthy World is 70 minutes, about the length of a psychiatric session," John Waters says. Performed May 23 at Whitaker Center, Waters' one-man show has been honed over many years in many cities and includes time for Q&A. Waters describes his journey through amusing vignettes about each of his films. "I once did the show for a Rotary Club but gave it a PG slant," Waters says laughing.

May 23 is Waters second appearance as part of the 10th Annual Patriot News Artsfest Film Festival running May 23-26. The popular festival is presented by FilmSpeak.com and Moviate.

May 24 film lovers can see a rare 16mm print of "Desperate Living." Attending the screening is Mink Stole, Susan Lowe, Vincent Peranio, George Stover, Turkey Joe, and others. Lowe is the film's star and Peranio dreamed up and built the movie's crazy sets. Jean Hill is not attending for health reasons but is sending a letter for public reading. Waters also established lasting relationships with key production people, such as production designer Peranio, costume designer Van Smith, and casting director Pat Moran, helping to give his films that trademark Waters "look."

Another Waters' trademark was Divine. She roamed with him in his early days when Waters drove his films from city to city, showing them at college film societies or rented halls. Every evening kicked off with a live introduction, "Divine would come out pushing a shopping cart, very much like the act in 'Female Trouble' and throw dead mackerels into the audience," he says.

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Water Plant Upgrades Cause Sticker Shock

By Karl Blankenship
The Bay Journal

Sticker shock is one way to describe the cost to municipalities for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. Pennsylvania's portion of the watershed hosts 183 wastewater treatment plants which must reduce discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus now degrading Bay water quality.

Disgruntled with no funds made available to help with the cleanup, at least 54 midstate municipalities have joined a law suit challenging the requirements. At press time, five groups affected by the cleanup asked the Legislature for 890 million over seven years to help pay for the improvements.

"There is a lot of resentment that no help is coming."

-State Senator Patricia Vance

Pennsylvania and other states in the watershed agreed in 2000 to achieve nutrient and sediment reductions to restore Bay water quality by 2010. Meeting Bay water quality standards is required under the federal Clean Water Act.

All states in the watershed face hefty price tags to reduce sewer plant discharges and thereby meet federal goals. A recent EPA report estimated nutrient upgrades will cost more than $4 billion. The issue is especially heated in Pennsylvania, where a backlash stirs as scores of local governments threaten lawsuits over the issue.

"Devastating," is the way one local government official summed up the impact to residents and businesses. For example,

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What a ride!

Why Evelyn Bertoni loves selling cars

see p. 33

Will gay marriage ban succeed?

see p. 4

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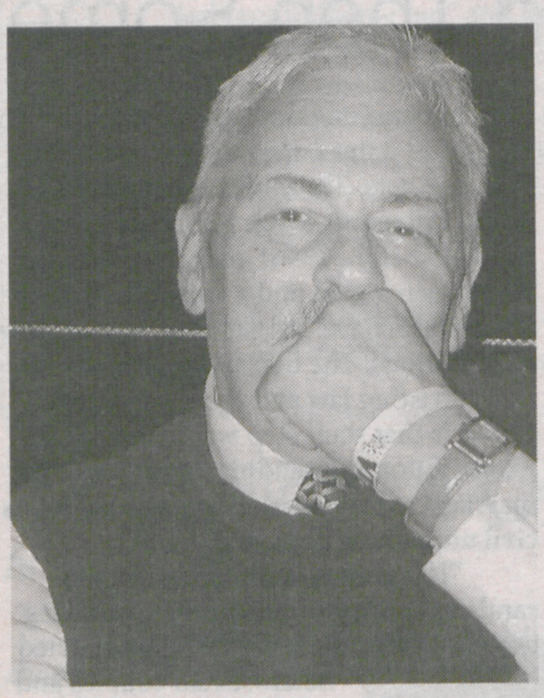
John Folby Retires



Well-known public servant John Folby announced his retirement from the PA Dept. of Public Welfare in March. His name is synonymous with the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program which he brought into existence with the advent of HIV medicines.

The program provides access to life-saving HIV medicines and mental health drugs to working individuals who otherwise couldn't pay for the medicines. He was honored last May when the Black & White Benefit launched The John Folby Award for Excellence. Folby was the award's first recipient, shown here the night of the event. "John is truly a life saver," said Harold, who receives his HIV medicines from the program.

Lace Up for 1st Annual Pride Run & Walk

Lace up your sneakers on Sunday, July 27 for the 1st Annual Common Roads Pride Run And Walk. Common Roads is a program serving the region's glbt youth.

"Common Roads is really excited to be partnering with the Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania to expand the weekend's festivities. We're looking forward to a great day on the river," says executive director Michelle Simmons.

The new event will be held along Riverfront Park in conjunction with the 2008 Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania celebration. The "walk and/or run" race begins 9 a.m. at the end of the Pridefest grounds near Paxton Street and continues along the Susquehanna River to the Walnut Street Bridge.

"Come out and strut your stuff to benefit both Pride and Common Roads," says Pride chair David Walker. The race then crosses the bridge to City Island, proceeds around the island and returns to a main stage area. The race is open to several age groups. For information or to register, please contact michelle@commonroads.org or visit either www.commonroads.org or www.harrisburgpride.org. Lace up your shoes and run for two great causes at once!

The cost to enter the race is $20 per person, $10 for children 15 and under. Proceeds will be divided evenly between Common Roads and the Pride Committee. Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania is a project affiliated with The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). TFEC's mission is to stimulate philanthropy and enhance the quality of life in the community through accumulating, managing and disbursing financial assets, and to serve as a catalyst and neutral convener to meet a wide range of community needs in the south central Pennsylvania counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lebanon, and Perry, and also in the Dillsburg area.

CJ Smith

Club XS Mr. Leather

CJ Smith is Club XS Mr. Leather. Club XS recently held its first Mr. Club XS Leather Competition. The competition was attended by many regional leather and bear clubs. Winner of the event is Mr. CJ Smith Smith now proceeds over Memorial Day Weekend to International Mr. Leather, Chicago, where he competes for the International Mr. Leather Title. Club XS events manager Charles Oswald says "CJ has a very good chance of winning, and he is exactly what IML Judges look for in choosing a winner for such a prestigious competition."

Annual Dine Out with Pride May 20

The Pride Committee is planning their Annual Dine Out with Pride May 20, 5- 9 p.m.

Numerous restaurants have been invited to participate. Sponsoring restaurants will be designating a portion of their proceeds to help support the Pride Festival. A full listing of participating restaurants will soon be available on our website http://www.harrisburgpride.org/

Mark your calendars now and invite you friends to help support Pride and our local participating restaurants by attending Dine Out with Pride. Enjoy good food for a good cause.

Womyn's Chorus Covers Earth with Love

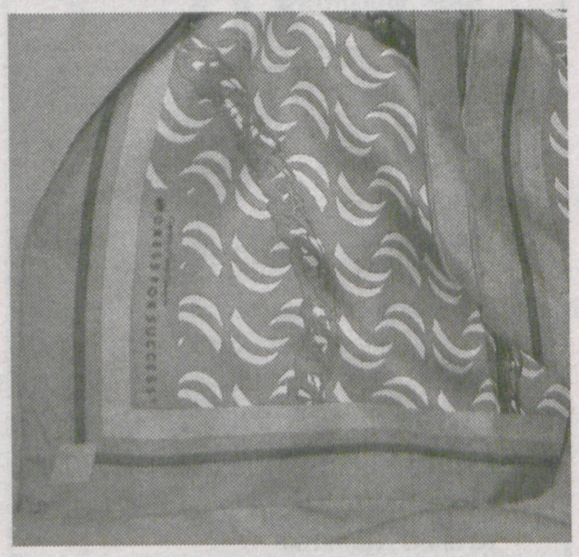
Central PA Womyn's Chorus will present "Cover the Earth with Love" on June 7, 7 p.m. at Unity Church of Harrisburg. Interim Artistic Director Dan Krynak chose this theme for its timeliness, considering the turmoil the world has been in lately. "War, economic struggles, environmental concerns, and political strife are just a few of the issues facing the world's citizens," Krynak said.

"Here in Pennsylvania we are no less affected, and this concert is sung not only as a reprieve from the daily struggles and suffering, but as a message of hope and love," Krynak said.

"When only one candle can light the darkness, and one voice can truly be heard, the chorus believes that together we can achieve even greater things," said president Cathy Nelson. Tickets are $15; children 18 and under, students with ID, seniors 65 and older, $5. Tickets are available by emailing info@cpwchorus.org, or may be purchased at the door. Contact: info@cpwchorus.org.

The chorus also held its Annual Pancake Breakfast April 5 at the Colonial Park United Church of Christ. As in the past, this event marked the beginning of the semi-annual CPWC raffle, where a myriad of donated items were presented in raffle fashion with winners to be chosen at the spring concert.

find more community voice on pages 23-26 & 32



Dress for Success Makes Vanity Fair

Dress for Success South Central PA, a regional affiliate of an international organization that helps disadvantaged women with support to enter the workforce, recently joined the international group by making the pages of Vanity Fair.

Locally, Ruth Koup founded a branch of the organization serving women. Readers can help local women by purchasing a scarf (Sean Combs design) from the local affiliate.

Net profits from the sale of the scarves will support DFS. To buy a scarf and benefit local women, contact DFS South Central PA, 717-657-3333; southcentralpa@dressforsuccess.org.

Gay-owned B&B Opens Public Restaurant

Although he's been in the business about 20 years, Don Adams recently opened his B&B dining room to the public. "We're now open to the public for breakfast, lunch, and early dinner (See Marketplace ad)," says Adams. He takes pride in the fact that his menu is "homemade from scratch." The establishment is non-smoking and BYOB. Hours: Closed Mon., Tues.- Fri. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m. – 5 pm. Abide with Me Bed & Breakfast is located at 2601 Walnut Street, Harrisburg. www.abidebb.com.

Gay-owned Tattoo Studio Opens

"I wanted the gay and lesbian community to know there's a place where they can feel comfortable," says Brass Monkey Studios co-owner Bryan Campbell. With Frank McManus he co-owns the space previously occupied by Mantis Art Gallery.

"I've worked a lot of places and know that our community isn't always welcome. You're always welcome here," Campbell says. The wall space will eventually display custom art shows with select artists from the region.

Brass Monkey Studios is located at 202 North Street, Harrisburg. www.brassmonkeystudios.com.

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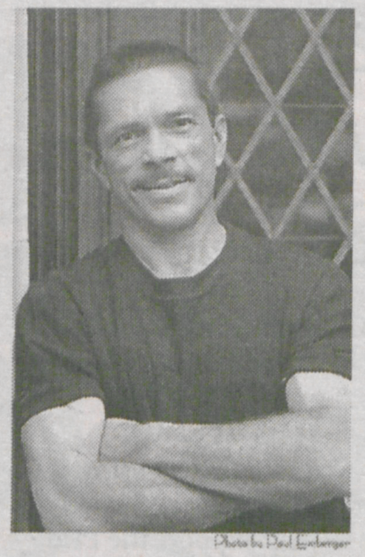

Senate Committee Defines Marriage – Again, and Then Some

After public hearings that drew "Honk for Traditional Marriage" placards to the capitol, the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary Committee on March 18 voted 10 to 4 to push Senate Bill 1250, the "Marriage Protection Amendment," to the next step in the legislative process.

In particular, the measure says: ""No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the Commonwealth." We'll have more to say about the language below.

In legislative lingo the measure is known as a "A Joint Resolution." Such resolutions often equate with political grandstanding that amounts to nothing much by the end of the process. That may or may not be the case with SB 1250. The only weaker form of legislative action is called a "Sense of the Senate" (or House), a weasel step taken by elected officials when a loud special interest that regularly contributes money and votes needs them to pay their piper. That's about what happened in the last round when about 250 people showed up at the public hearings, mostly in favor of the measure. Our elected officials paid their landlords with a symbolic vote. Supporters of the bill include Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, and other "family" groups who cannot and will not sleep until their brand of religion and morality is made the law of the land.

Are we concerned that bigotry has raised its ugly head yet again? Of course we are, but we're also not willing to have our response amount the same sort of grandstanding we regret seeing in our political opponents. In short, the success of this measure is unlikely, and those who introduced the amendment also know it has little chance of moving through the multi-year elaborate legislative process we describe below as a service to readers and advertisers.

In an earlier round, then Rep. Mark S. McNaughton, a Dauphin County Republican, introduced a similar measure in the House. That was before he had his own public troubles over unpaid child support. A deposition from his divorce indicates between 2000 and late 2003, McNaughton conducted a three-year relationship with a women who stated she met him as a 19-year-old campaign volunteer. Those who can do. Those who can't preach.

> *"...the success of this measure is unlikely, and those who introduced the amendment also know it has little chance of moving...*

Think of the Senate committee's action as preaching to the saved. The measure had four fewer Republican Senators as co-sponsors than when a similar resolution was introduced a while back. Local Senators Jeff Piccola and outgoing Terry Punt remain sponsors, as does Lancaster's Sen. Gib Armstrong. Piccola doesn't have much to hang his hat on these days. Although he's been around the political block a few times, he's not been able to gain any traction with runs (some say lunges) at the governor's office, and several other statewide posts. He can't even get the backing of his local party caucus. So, when all else fails bully the homos. That's a good way to goose your political fortunes.

Remember too that the vote came from a Senate "committee," and was not voted on by the entire Senate. In fact, the measure must see first passage by the General Assembly (both the state House and Senate in full). Then, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, as one of the office's regular duties, must properly advertise the measure.

Only after second passage by the General Assembly – in two separate legislative sessions (a legislative session lasts 2 years) - would the measure (which cannot be amended along the way) be placed before the electorate at the first primary, general or municipal election which meets the standards set forth in the state constitution.

Paying back favors, the Senate committee took their vote notwithstanding that since 1996, the same year Congress passed its marriage protection act, Pennsylvania has had a Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) on the books that defines marriage as between one man and one women. Forty-one states currently have statutory marriage acts. Three of those states have statutory language that pre-dates DOMA (enacted before 1996) defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Twenty-seven states have defined marriage in their constitutions. The difference between the state's existing law and the committee's action is that their step would call for a "constitutional amendment" that defines marriage man-woman marriage, prohibits civil unions and potentially more.

"If it passes, it could harm thousands of Pennsylvania families including same-sex and unmarried heterosexual couples and their children," Equality Advocates' Stacy Sobel said of the measure. EA is a Phila.-based group that bitterly opposed the recent Senate committee action. In 2006, EA, with the help of countless Pennsylvanians defeated a similar attempt to amend the state constitution. That measure would have prohibited relationship recognition for "all" unmarried couples in the state.

The real danger lies in SB 1250's language that accomplishes in one step what other states took two steps to achieve or lost altogether when their compromises technically defined "marriage" as "male-female" only but also allowed "civil unions." In other words, other states' compromises disentangled the knotty issue of church versus state.

Under other state's compromises, if a church didn't want to marry queers, they didn't have to go against their beliefs. Likewise, if queers found themselves in a church that wouldn't marry them, they could simply find a church that wanted them. Likewise again a state with recognition of civil unions was free to acknowledge same sex unions for purely legal reasons that protected queer couples' interests and assets in the same way straight couples can decide the fate of their assets. The compromise brushed away the godless homo arguments made (erroneously) by our opponents. There is a reasonably good chance, as has occurred in other states, that the "functional equivalent" language of SB 1250 would not withstand a court challenge.

During that last round that stalled out by 2006, PA-GALA's Steve Black estimated that it would take 1.25 million votes to defeat such a constitutional amendment. Anyone with a vested interest in the outcome of this issue – gay, straight, living together - who isn't involved might want to think about getting up off their uninvolved backside and get moving.

-Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

I THINK HOMOSEXUALITY IS A SIN AND PEOPLE WHO ARE GAY WILL GO TO HELL!
WELL, IF IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO YOU, DON'T BE GAY!

voice box

"Out – I'm so tired that the only homosexuals the general public hears about are men thrown out of their own dark, guilt-filled closets by juicy scandals. We need more well-adjusted, successful gays and lesbians to "come out" and let our glbt youth know that life is good, love is for them too, there are happy endings. We must stop those people all twisted up inside over their sexuality from defining us. No more Larry Craig, Jim McGreevey, Ted Haggart, and the endless parade of spineless men (and women) who think advancing our civil rights is everyone else's job while they wallow in their guilt.

-Gregory, Dillsburg

Email your thoughts and experiences to Central VOICE: posops@aol.com

Time Is Running Out on Redistricting

By Andrea Mulrine, President, PA League of Women Voters

Immediately following the 2010 US census, Pennsylvania's General Assembly will engage in what politicians call redistricting, and what is known by the rest of us as gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is the process of manipulating electoral districts for political advantage. The term was coined in 1811 when Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry's approved creation of a salamander-shaped district.

your voice

Because of population shifts revealed by the census, redistricting is necessary to make US Congressional and Pennsylvania legislative districts equal in population, fulfilling our one person, one vote principle. It is a hotly partisan insider's game that is ignored by most citizens.

Yet if we ignore it we do so at our own peril because the results directly affect how we are governed during the following decade. Those in charge of the process can determine the reelection prospects of incumbents and impact which political party will have

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531 Miles of Old Road

By Albert Paschall

Undoubtedly had Governor Rendell chosen to work in the private sector he would have been a salesman. Not just any salesman but the best in the business. Just look back in history. I was there in 1998 when he donned an elephant tie and the Democratic Mayor of Philadelphia sold the Republican National Committee on bringing its quadrennial convention to his city. Tally up all those hotel rooms, shopping trips, dinners and especially drinks and that had to have been at least a billion dollar sale.

your voice

Could be though that the Governor is losing his touch because his latest pitch is hitting a lot of resistance, not from any buyers, but from the sellers. The Governor's idea of selling the Pennsylvania Turnpike doesn't seem to have much traction around the state.

With good reason, 531 miles of old road isn't a very sexy product. This time of year it needs frequent plowing that leads to it being riddled with potholes come spring. With people making 188 million trips on it a year the maintenance bills pile up.

You would think that the people of Pennsylvania would want to get rid of it. But that's not happening fast. In the first place the predominant interests in buying it are foreign investors. Rich folks in places like Taiwan, Switzerland and Australia claim they would ante up to the tune of $10 billion for the highway. The governor claims this bonus would be used strictly to repair other roads and bridges around the state. But the concerns are out there especially when $10 billion hits Harrisburg all at once. Suppose Australia declared war on us could they close our turnpike? What if the Taiwanese made some bad investments and went bust do we get our road back? What if the Swiss investors know nothing about running a tolled highway and do a really lousy job, who do we complain to?

Now it's hard to say what businesses the state should be in but maintaining highways and bridges is probably one of them. But it's real easy to say what business it shouldn't be in, wine and spirits.

If the Governor wanted a quick deal what could be easier than shedding the state's monopoly on booze sales? Sure wealthy Australians like to buy highways but almost everybody buys wine or spirits.

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Give Us the Splendid Sun

By Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future

It was Walt Whitman, the great American poet, who said, "Give me the splendid silent sun, with all his beams full-dazzling!"

your voice

Here in Pennsylvania, that splendid silent sun is about to be harnessed to create new clean energy, yielding a bounty of new, permanent, great green jobs, clean air, and pollution-free power. Making sure the sun's dazzling beams are put to work now in Pennsylvania, by ensuring early investments in solar with the passage of Special Senate House Bill 1 (SHB 1), is job one.

Every day 10,000 times more sunlight than we need to meet all of our energy needs shines down for free. But here in Pennsylvania, we make less than one-hundredth-of-one-percent of our energy from clean solar power, free of any fuel costs. Other places in the world like Germany and Japan and California and New Jersey already have much more solar installed than Pennsylvania. Worldwide annual production of solar electricity generation is about 2500 megawatts or enough to supply about 500,000 American households.

These numbers may be about to change - dramatically. Even today, the use of solar energy is growing exponentially, doubling every two or three years. In 20 years, the world will use 1,000 times the solar energy it does today, with very large amounts of solar power coming online every day of each year.

New technological breakthroughs are producing lighter, more efficient and easier-to-install solar panels. Solar pricing will be dropping as making electricity from burning fossil fuels or nuclear plants skyrockets.

But where will the industry to supply the solar power technologies take root? If the General Assembly passes SHB 1, it will sprout and grow right here in Pennsylvania.

SHB 1 creates an $850 million fund to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and green buildings. It specifically allocates $200 million for solar energy, and

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letters to the editor

"No Pride Breakfast?"

I heard through the bar grapevine that the Pride Committee isn't having a breakfast this year for the community. The person telling me the story said they had a breakfast meeting the last two years to explain how everything works. With all the drama (we sure love our drama!) over the Switchboard I think it's a big mistake not to have a meeting.

-Jimmy, Harrisburg

Pride Chair Dave Walker replies: *There was an event March 8 that was a "breakfast" and benefit for MCC. The first two breakfast events (2006, 2007) were put on by the Parade Cte., not Pride. With GLSH's closing (Pride was operating under GLSH without its own non-profit status) and Pride consequently moving out on its own and currently under the auspices of another 501c3, the March 8 event was planned due to time restraints. As Pride Board President I will gladly be available to answer any questions. Volunteers are welcome to attend Pride planning meetings anytime. The next meeting is May 13, 7 p.m. at The Best Western Hotel, 7:00 PM on Eisenhower Blvd.*

"You Go!"

Love your new look. Fresh, impressive. You go!

-Bev, Harrisburg

"Strand-Capital Kinsey Sicks"

I loved the Kinsey Sicks at Strand-Capital! They reminded me of The Flirtations only with their own flair for entertaining. Their parodies are brilliant. "We Arm the World" made me feel so proud that they let the audience know, and our detractors too, that we care about lots of social justice issues not only our own lack of civil rights.

-Boyd, Lancaster

"Religion"

It seems that "The Bible Tells Me So" movie took on a life of its own in the region. When I showed up at Market Street Church and saw the place packed, I realized just how important religion is to the gay community here. I also noticed so many faces that looked like moms, dads, grandparents, all eager to learn from the film. That's a family in my book.

-David, Carlisle

"Like New Design"

I like the new look and design of Central Voice.

-Ben, Harrisburg

Ray and Grace Diaz, Nonna's Deli-Siosa, present a warm and friendly atmosphere to their regular and new customers. "It's like Cheers, the place were they know your name and what you like," says one regular.

Satisfying Food at Nonna's Deli-Siosa

Nonna's Deli-Sioso, 263 Reily St, Harrisburg, is a small treasure in a growing Midtown neighborhood. Owners Ray and Grace Diaz started out at Broad Street Market and then grew into their current space, formerly the E.T. Morrett Poultry building dating back to the 1930s. Nonna's serves Italian-style sandwiches with high quality meats at decent prices, tasty salads, entrees, and breakfast all hours.

"I've had so many satisfying lunches and dinners at Nonna's," says Central Voice publisher Frank Pizzoli, who lives nearby. "Besides Midtown residents, the deli is a destination point into the neighborhood. Foodies are driving in to sample Ray's dishes."

Look for a new menu soon.

Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F, Sat. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: 717-232-6150. Tell them Central Voice sent you.

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Speakers: Harold R. Walters
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Orlando Maldonado, CIMA®
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Merrill Lynch

Global Wealth Management
Global Markets & Investment Banking
Global Research

your voice

531 Miles of Old Road

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In the fiscal year that ended in June, Pennsylvania's Liquor Control Board grossed $1.6 billion and that looks to be about triple the revenue that the turnpike had.

With 560 exclusive franchises and a wholesale system that services the entire span of markets: consumers, bars, restaurants and hotels, it shouldn't be much of a stretch to grab a few billion by selling the state's liquor stranglehold. Someday if Governor Rendell goes that route we might get our roads and bridges fixed and still own, for whatever its worth, America's number one superhighway.

Albert Paschall is senior fellow at The Lincoln Institute of Public Opinion Research, a non-profit educational foundation based in Harrisburg. Somedays is syndicated to leading newspapers and radio stations in Pennsylvania. somedays@lincolninstitute.org

Time Is Running Out on Redistricting

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majority control in the US Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Our right to a meaningful choice when we go to the polls is denied.

The state Constitution gives legislative leaders (who are also leaders of their respective political parties) exclusive power to draw General Assembly district boundaries. Because the process is bipartisan the outcome is usually fairer to both parties. However, these leaders can and do collude to create safe districts for incumbents and candidates of their parties.

Two consequences of gerrymandering may be less obvious but deserve consideration.

First, a lack of competitive elections breeds voter apathy and reduced civic participation. Why become involved when the result is predetermined? Why volunteer or vote? Why become a candidate to run on a losing party ticket?

Second, gerrymandering contributes to the division and gridlock which has dominated political discourse in recent years. When a safe district disenfranchises the opposing party, favored candidates have no need to reach out to swing voters or engage in the bipartisan negotiation and compromise often needed to solve pressing problems like access to quality education or affordable health care.

It is time for Pennsylvanians to rise up and demand changes to past redistricting practices. At a minimum, those changes should include:

- Consideration of the interests of voters first, not the politicians;
- Public participation in the process;
- Respect for communities of common interest and existing government boundaries to the greatest possible extent;
- Drawing compact and rationally-shaped districts.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania knows that if maps can be drawn to create political advantage, they can also be drawn to promote fairness and democracy. Reform requires amendment to the state Constitution and legislation must be passed by June, 2008 for reform to take effect in time for the upcoming 2011 round of redistricting. Contact your State Senators and Representatives today and demand that they work diligently to pass redistricting legislation by June, 2008. Time is running out.

Give Us the Splendid Sun

Continued from page 5

65 percent of that would provide rebates for businesses and families that install solar panels on their roofs. The rest would be available to manufacturers of solar power plant components.

The rebates for solar installations could put solar energy within the reach of thousands of Pennsylvania homeowners for the first time, bringing the cost in line with other home improvements. A typical solar power plant for a house costs about $24,000. The federal government will give you a 30 percent tax credit today if you buy one. SHB 1 would provide a rebate on top of that and pay an additional 15 percent if the unit is manufactured in Pennsylvania. That could bring the price down to around $10,000. And you could also sell any electricity you don't use back to the power company.

The mix of incentives for solar energy would also encourage builders of new houses to integrate solar from the start. As energy prices rise over the next few years, the guaranteed lower utility bills that home buyers could realize from generating their own, clean electricity would offset the initial extra investment. Solar power systems increase the resale value of homes, too.

Installing solar energy systems on homes and businesses and maintaining them over time creates good paying jobs that cannot be sent overseas. Even more jobs could be created in plants that manufacture the components of solar energy systems.

With wise policy, over the next four to six years, Pennsylvania can become a major market for and supplier of solar energy. The potential global market for solar in the next decade could create a new clean industrial revolution in Pennsylvania. And just as Pennsylvania led the first industrial revolution with coal mining and steel production, it could lead the next by making silicon ingots, wafers and solar cells.

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Quality Care Coalition Takes Issue with Rendell Budget

By Pennsylvanians For Quality Care

your voice

A new coalition, "Pennsylvanians for Quality Care" says the Rendell administration's proposed 2008-09 state budget provides no increase in Medical Assistance rates for the care of Pennsylvania's most ill and elderly residents in nursing homes. Two out of three nursing home residents rely on Medical Assistance to meet their long-term care needs.

During a budget question and answer session, Welfare Secretary Estelle Richman said, that "while the need (for nursing home funding) is very definite," flat funding merely means nursing homes will "have to sharpen their pencils and do the same budgeting everyone has to do when times are tight and … at the same time try not to cut any services."

"Nursing homes have just about run out of pencils," says Ron Barth, CEO, PANPHA, an association of nonprofit senior services.

"Secretary Richman conveniently forgets that the Rendell administration has under-reimbursed nursing homes by nearly $290 million since 2005. Care providers have cut and cut and cut spending and continue to try to find ways to maintain services. The Rendell administration can't have it both ways. They say this is a tight budget but are proposing new spending for a variety of things, including millions for laptop computers in schools. Like working families do when times are tight, the state should be focused on paying its current obligations and pay its bills."

The national accounting firm BDO Seidman/Eljay LLC reported last year that in 2006, Pennsylvania shortchanged these senior care providers an average of $12 per resident per day, or more than $4,300 per resident per year. Two out of three nursing home residents are on Medical Assistance in Pennsylvania, and the cost of caring for these individuals is increasing as their acuity (sickness) levels rise. Nursing home costs increased 27 percent between 2001 and 2005; Medical Assistance reimbursements during that time increased just 18 percent.

"The detrimental effects of the Administration's proposed budget are very real - on the residents, on those who care for them, and on the families who rely on these facilities to be a safe harbor for elderly loved ones," says Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., CEO, PA Health Care Association.

"The governor's budget doesn't just fall flat. It is regressive and continues this Administration's long standing failure to provide adequate resources to the 80,000 residents who rely on nursing homes to meet their daily needs - often the sickest, frailest and most ill and disabled in the state," Dr. Shapiro said. "I understand that difficult budget choices must be made, that priorities must be set. But our Greatest Generation should have first dibs on limited state resources. They should be at the front of the line."

As a result of three consecutive years of under-funding, many nursing homes are struggling to meet the medical, physical and social needs of residents. In some places in Pennsylvania, low-income elderly have to wait for nursing home beds and self-paying nursing home residents have to pay more for their care, because of chronic government under-funding.

The coalition is comprised of PANPHA, an association of nonprofit senior services; the PA Association of County Affiliated Homes (PACAH); the PA Health Care Association (PHCA); care administrators; employees; residents and family members. Contact: www.PaForQualityCare.org.

Art Association of Harrisburg Hosts Several Events

One Night Stand Exhibition at Molly Branigan's, Walnut and Second Streets, free admission! Featuring works by emerging artists, complementary hors d'ouvres, cash bar, music by Green Onions.

80th Annual Juried Exhibition - May 10-June 12 - Opening Reception May 10, 6-9 p.m. Music by Jonathan Frazier. 100 works of art from across the US. Wachovia Foundation, Corporate Sponsor.

Art School Annual Exhibition - June 20-July 17 - Opening Reception June 20, 5-8 p.m. Music by Jonathan Frazier. PSEA, Corporate Sponsor. Art works by past year's AAH students and faculty.

"Summer in the City" Soiree, Olde Uptown Townhomes, 1947 Green St., Saturday, June 7, featuring abstract oils by Walter Diehl, sculptures by Rich Gribble and photos by Tom Reider. 4-7 p.m. $30 in advance, $35 at door. Hors d'ouevres, beverages, music.

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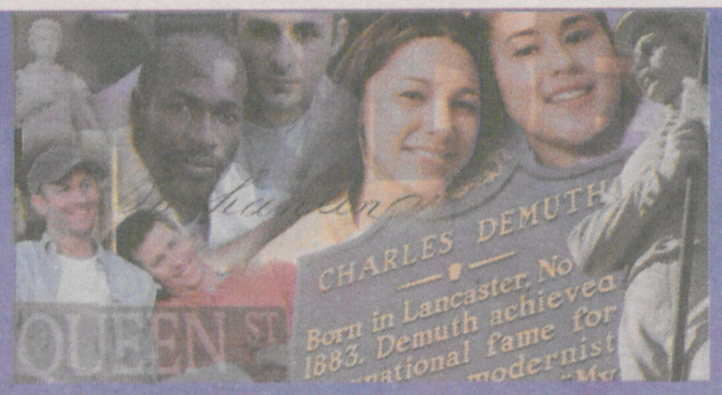

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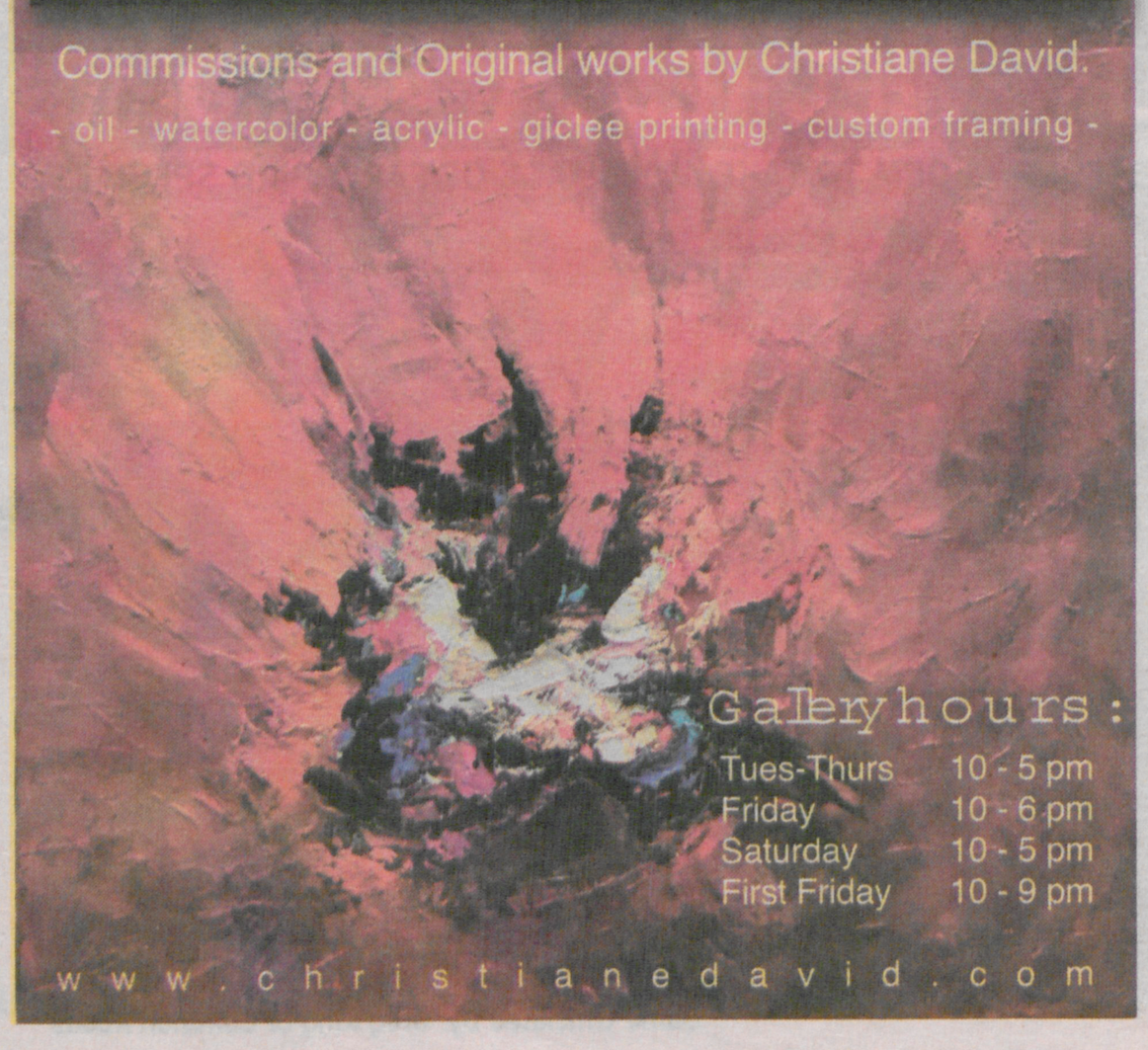

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Long's Park Events

The Long's Park Amphitheater Foundation will open its 46th annual Summer Music Series Sunday, June 1.

The 13-weekend season will sizzle with everything from salsa, Celtic and bluegrass to patriotic, blues and rock. The lineup is studded with W.C. Handy, Juno, Australian Recording Industry Association, International Bluegrass Music Association and Dove award winners and Grammy nominees. Plus, the season will again feature the community's largest patriotic concert and fireworks display. All performances and parking are free of charge and begin at 7:30 pm. A complete season lineup and on information on discounted lodging near the park can be found at www.longspark.org.

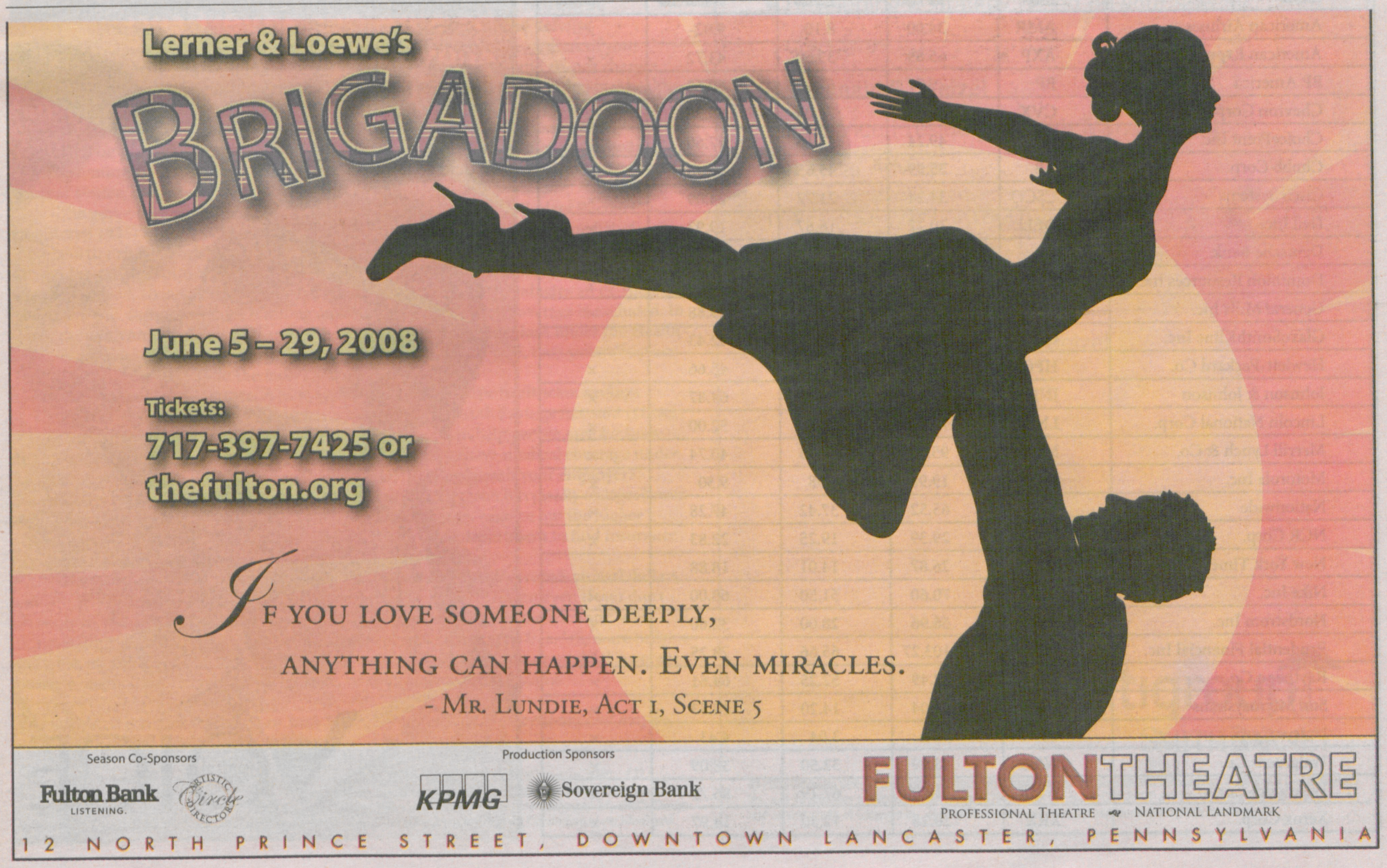
Opening the season June 1 is Big Jack Johnson and the Corn Lickers. The season closes August 24 with the jammin' rock of songwriter, singer, guitar/banjo wizard Bobby Lee Rodgers & The CodeTalkers.

Lancaster Debuts Music Fridays

Based on the success of last year's one-off musicFriday, Lancaster businesses on 200-300 N. Queen Street have resurrected the idea. "We loved what happened first time around and just decided to get the event up and running on a regular basis," says Tony Nies, owner of Building Character, a salvage and renovation shop along the street.

Their first evening of music this year was March 21 and will continue every third Friday. "Lancaster's First Fridays are about art and galleries. We want musicFridays to be about entertainment, performers, and, of course, music," Nies says. One business along the strip had a belly dancer. "Visitors can expect a whole lot more fun acts in the near future."

After the success of the first event, Lancaster Mayor J. Richard Gray appointed a committee that has since asked to join forces with the Queen Street group to bring the entire city into the mix.



Law, Love, and Lettuce

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney

Spring has arrived. As an avid gardener, this is my favorite season. New planting schemes have been in planning all winter. Seed orders were sent, packets of dormant life received, and flats of new growth are bursting forth under the lights inside. Outside the perennials are just beginning to push forth new shoots and the buds are starting to swell on the lilacs and almond tree.

I will soon be able to tell if all those new irises and daylilies carefully sited last fall made it through their first winter in their new home. In a few weeks, the netting and leaves around the "hardy" musa basjoo (Japanese Fiber Banana) will be removed to see if it made it through another winter successfully or if it's become a patch of mushy rot. Then it will be on to planting the summer bulbs: cannas, callas, caladiums, alocasias, colocasias, zanthosomas, and dahlias.

Vegetable plants like lettuce and tomatoes are tucked into the extra spaces for summer snacks. Last, but not least, a greenhouse tour for summer annuals occurs to acquire those unique plants that are not valuable enough to keep through the winter, but add the extra spice and color to the garden palette, such as melampodiums, coleus, impatiens, and begonias.

As captured so well by Lynn in the "For Better or For Worse" comic strip, "Growing flowers is like having the perfect relationship. You love them, nurture them, they grow, they blossom… and in the end, when it's over, you know they didn't leave you willingly."

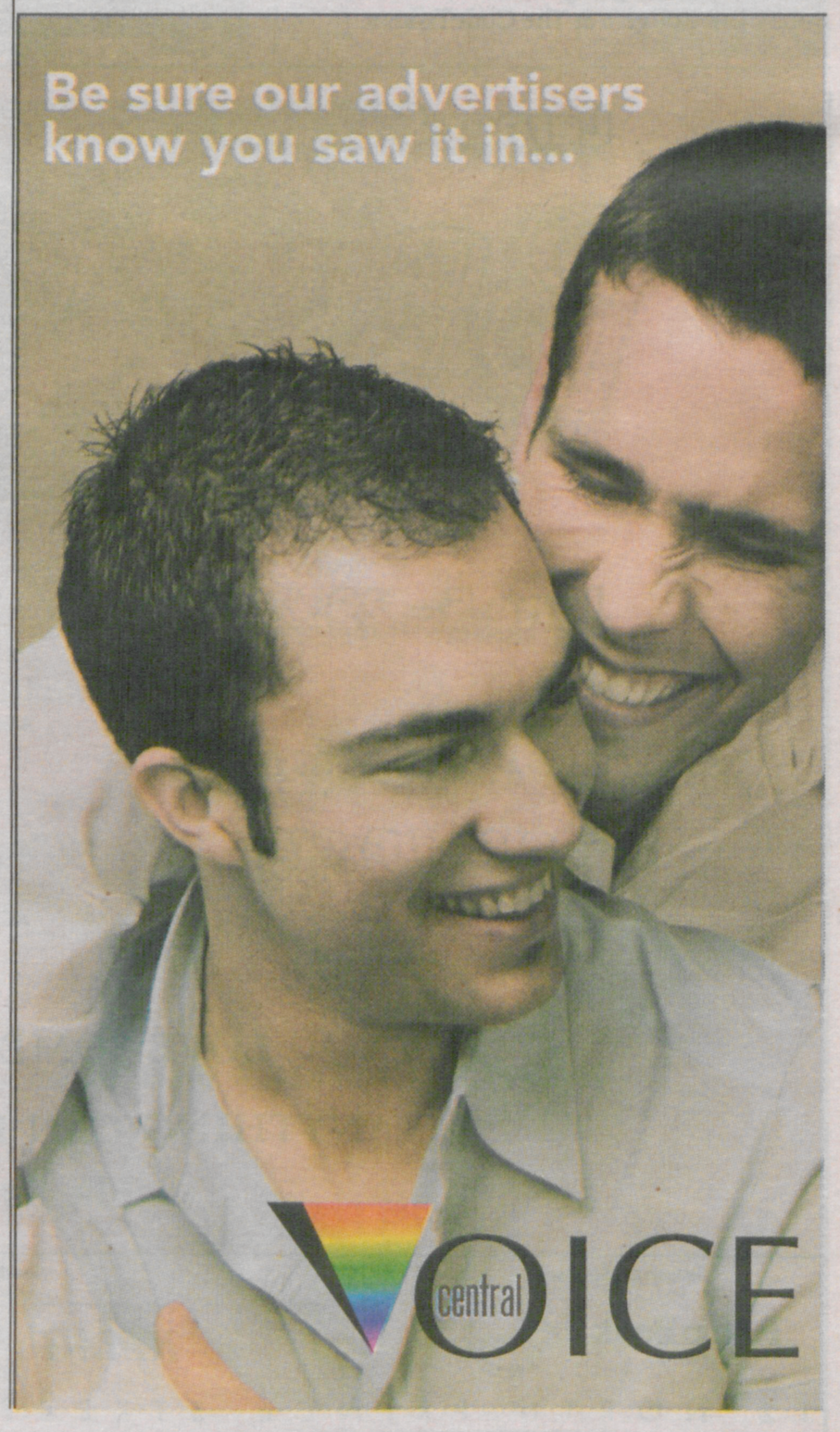
In so many ways this is true. Like a relationship, you may have decided on a plant after long careful study or due to love at first sight. You take them home, carefully select the best site, water them regularly, and provide nutrients as needed. At first the plant is in shock and may seem out of place. It seems to pause and look around while it first sends out new roots. Then if conditions are favorable, it suddenly starts growing. Soon it's blooming and covered in color.

That first season of growth often seems the most vibrant. However, for plants that survive the downturn in temperature after that first summer and survive the frosts of winter, the new growth is just as green and now the stems have more character and presence. The flowers may not be as closely watched for, but they occur with regularity season after season. And when they finally have reached the end of their span, they quietly fade away leaving memories in their wake.

The law is similar in that the legislature sometimes enacts laws after careful study and planning to decide what is in the best interests of the majority of citizens. Sometimes they enact laws while being carried away by the emotions of the moment. Like a plant, sometimes the law fits providing texture, character and substance and over time grows to be a sturdy tree upon which people can count for shelter and take pride in its beauty. A good example of this is the Right to Due Process. Every citizen can rely on their right to receive due process in the event of government action affecting their interests. If fact, due process has grown so strong and so well that in several states it has blossomed into Common Law Due Process giving individuals the right to receive notice and be heard in the event of certain private actions as well government action.

Like any good gardener, legislator, or partner, we all need to plan so that our efforts are successful. How's your planning?

Rainbow Market Report					
Company	Symbol	Year High	Year Low	03/31/08 Close	Fortune 500
American Airlines	AMR	34.00	8.10	9.02	×
American Express Co.	AXP	65.89	39.50	43.72	×
BP America	BP	79.77	57.85	60.65	
Chevron Corp.	CVX	95.50	74.05	85.36	×
ChoicePoint Inc.	CPS	49.24	31.15	47.60	
Chubb Corp.	CB	55.99	45.65	49.48	×
Cisco Systems	CSCO	34.24	21.77	24.09	×
Dell Inc.	DELL	30.77	18.87	19.92	×
Deutsche Bank	DB	159.76	102.36	113.05	
Dominion Resources Inc.	D	49.38	38.63	40.84	×
General Mills Inc.	GIS	61.52	51.00	59.88	×
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	GSK	59.98	40.51	42.43	
Hewlett-Packard Co.	HPQ	53.48	39.99	45.66	×
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	68.85	59.72	64.87	×
Lincoln National Corp.	LNC	74.72	45.50	52.00	×
Merrill Lynch & Co.	MER	95.00	37.25	40.74	×
Motorola Inc.	MOT	19.98	8.98	9.30	×
Nationwide	NFS	65.52	37.42	47.28	×
NCR Corp.	NCR	29.39	19.25	22.83	×
New York Times Co.	NYT	26.87	14.01	18.88	
Nike Inc.	NKE	70.60	51.50	68.00	×
Nordstrom Inc.	JWN	56.96	28.00	32.60	×
Prudential Financial Inc.	PRU	103.27	65.66	78.25	×
Raytheon Co.	RTN	67.49	52.25	64.61	×
Sun Microsystems	JAVA	25.04	14.20	15.53	×
Unisys Corp.	UIS	9.70	3.04	4.43	×
Walgreens Co.	WAG	48.09	32.50	38.09	×
Whirlpool Corp.	WHR	118.00	67.19	86.78	×
Xerox Corp.	XRX	20.18	12.30	14.97	×



Healthcare Planning:

Practical Considerations for a 'Graying' America

By Ronald Wetzel
Financial Advisor, Citi Smith Barney

Part I - Modern medicine has made great advances, giving a child born in the U.S. in 2000 an average life expectancy nearly 30 years longer than one born in 1900.[1] But healthcare has no cure for old age.

Today, more than 36 million Americans are 65 years of age or older, making up approximately 12% of the total population. And by the year 2030, that number could grow to 71 million, a staggering 20% of the population. [2] Yet as this tidal wave of Baby Boomers prepares to enter retirement, both employers and the government are cutting back on low-cost healthcare benefits.

More and more, responsibility for America's healthcare price tag is shifting to individuals and families. Medicare faces constant cost pressures, and some people are concerned that the program may eventually become insolvent. Premiums for employer-sponsored insurance have increased 87% cumulatively from 2000-2006, compared to a 20% increase in wages and an 18% increase in overall inflation.[3] In addition, employers are moving to limit the benefits and coverage they will offer to current and future retirees.

With maturing Americans living longer, more vital lives, how will they afford the growing cost of healthcare—especially for situations involving long-term care? While various forms of insurance typically cover routine doctor visits and emergency medical situations sufficiently, coverage for ongoing long-term healthcare needs is often limited and restricted. Paying for long-term care needs can quickly deplete even substantial savings.

Many Americans are rightfully concerned, and there are indications that rising healthcare costs are hurting their household finances. Even wealthy individuals view this issue as a major threat to their family's long-term financial well-being. According to a Citigroup Smith Barney Affluent Investor Poll (May 2006), about seven in ten of those surveyed had concerns about being able to pay the cost of long-term care in their retirement years.

Whatever form governmental healthcare financing may take in the future, we will all shoulder some part of the costs. Wise planning now can make a great difference in how financially prepared you will be to handle the medical needs of retirement. This series of articles provides a brief introduction to some of the major programs and issues you should consider when planning your healthcare finances—both now and for retirement.

Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: The first line of defense

If you belong to an employer-sponsored healthcare program, regardless of your age or health, keep it! The premiums, deductibles, prescription drug and co-pay charges available through a group health plan can be a bargain in comparison to individual health insurance. If you are changing employers, sign up for the new employer's plan as soon as you join the company (generally within the first 30 days). Many large plans will have no limitations on pre-existing conditions, but that may only apply if you sign up immediately upon becoming an employee. If you wait and do not have proof of existing coverage from another source, additional charges or limitations may apply.

The government's COBRA legislation (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) instituted a variety of safeguards for workers and their immediate family members to maintain healthcare coverage if a "qualifying event" occurs. These include death of covered employee; termination or reduction of hours (whether resignation, discharge, layoff, strike, or other cause); divorce, which normally terminates an ex-spouse's eligibility; or a dependent child reaching an age or status for which coverage is excluded. In 1996, the government added further healthcare coverage and protections under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. While these are helpful, they generally place a greater burden of cost upon the individual.

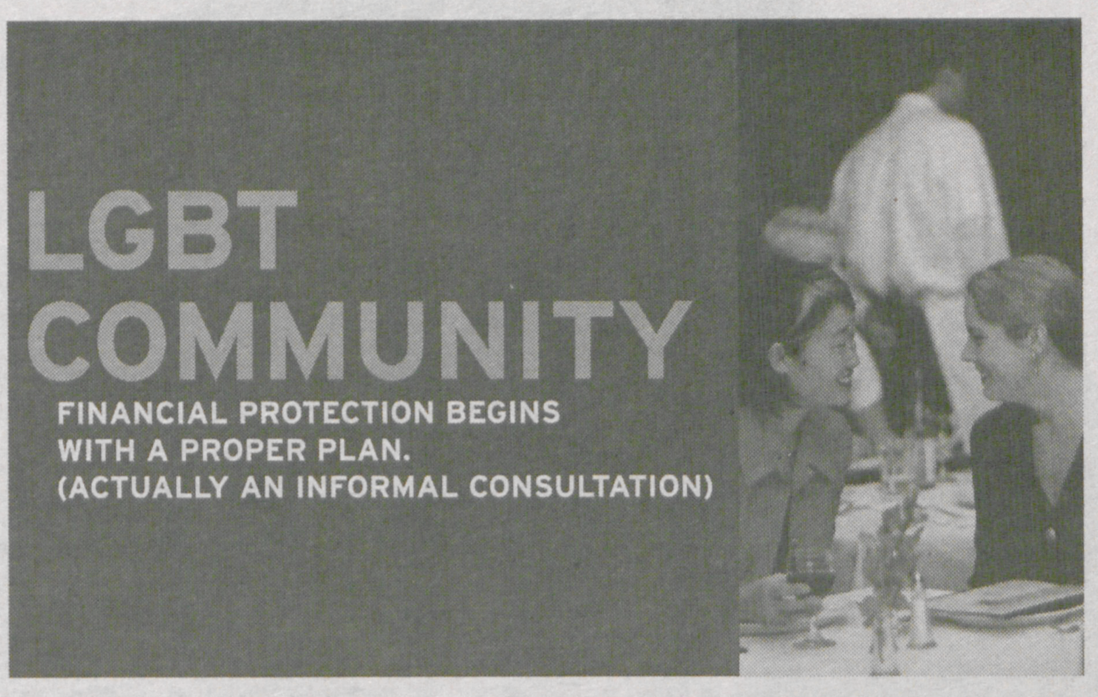
Health Savings Accounts: A new tax-favored strategy for healthcare savings

If you are currently employed, you might consider a Health Savings Account (HSA). The Federal government introduced these accounts in 2004 to help people save for both current and future medical expenses. To qualify, you need to have medical coverage under an HSA-approved high deductible health plan (HDHP). Check with your employer's benefits department to see if they offer an HDHP alternative, which typically charges lower premiums than the regular group coverage and may, for some, balance out the higher deductible. If not, you can also contact your state insurance department to find insurance companies qualified to sell these plans in your state of residence.

There are significant advantages to HSAs. They are triple tax-favored: annual dollars you are allowed to contribute are deductible on your Federal tax return even if you don't itemize; assets in the account can be invested and the earnings grow tax-free; and withdrawals from the account for qualified medical expenses are also tax-free. HSAs are fully portable, meaning you can keep your account even if you change jobs or medical coverage, become unemployed, move to another state, or change your marital status.

Ronald Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney located in Harrisburg and may be reached at 717-780-1789.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau. Average life expectancy at birth rose from 47.3 years in 1900 to 76.9 years in 2000. [2] U.S. Census Bureau News release, March 9, 2006 [3] "Health Care: Squeezing the Middle Class with More Costs and Less Coverage," Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, January 31, 2007, Diane Rowland, Sc.D., EVP, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Executive Director, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.



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The "Super Bugs"

By Diedra Craft MSN, CRNP
Nightingale Health & Wellness Services

Recently there's been a lot said about antibiotic resistance and super bugs like Methacillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). Notices on the infection are seen on TV. Elementary schools, college health centers, and employers are providing information on the infection. Local hospitals are focusing on MRSA.

What is Staphylococcus aureus?

Staphylococcus aureus, also called 'staph', are bacteria found on the skin or in the noses of healthy people everywhere. Approximately 25 to 30% of the population has these bacteria present, but not causing an infection in the nose. It is one of the most common causes of skin infections in the US.

What is MRSA?

Some staph bacteria are resistant to antibiotics. MRSA is resistant to the most common antibiotics including penicillin, amoxicillin, and many newer and stronger antibiotics. Even with 25 – 30% of the population harboring staph, only about 1% is colonized with MRSA.

What is community-associated MRSA or CA-MRSA?

Staph and MRSA can cause illness in people outside of hospitals or healthcare facilities. CA MRSA refers to MRSA infections occurring in people that have not medical procedures (dialysis, surgery or catheters) or been in the hospital within the last year. Staph or CA MRSA usually shows up as skin infections like a pimples or boils in otherwise healthy people. Most MRSA infections, however, occur in hospitalized patients or patients treated in other healthcare settings such as dialysis centers and outpatient surgery centers. Unfortunately it is also becoming more common in the community setting.

What does MRSA or staph look like?

Either MRSA or staph infection can cause a skin infection that may look like a pimple or boil. They can be red, swollen, and painful or have pus or other drainage. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical wound infections. Seek your healthcare providers help if you think you might have any type of wound or skin infection.

Who's at risk?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, research says MRSA is spread by close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts or scrapes, touching contaminated surfaces, crowded living conditions, and poor hygiene.

Prevention

Practice good hygiene:

1. Keep your hands clean by thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
4. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.
5. For health club users, using a barrier (ie. Clothing or towel) between you and shared equipment and wiping surfaces off before and after use.

Treatable?

Yes. Most staph and MRSA infections are treatable with appropriate antibiotics. If prescribed antibiotic for and infection, take all of the doses, even if your infection is getting better, unless told by your healthcare provider to stop. Do not share antibiotics with other people and do not save unfinished antibiotics to use at another time.

Sometimes, staph skin infections in the form of an abscess or boil may be drained an may not require antibiotics. Only a healthcare provider should do draining of the abscess or boil. Please don't try this on your own.

If your infection does not improve in a few days, notify your healthcare provider. If those living with you get a similar infection, have them seen by their health care provider.

Protecting others

1. Cover your wound – keep wound that have drainage or pus covered with clean, dry bandages and follow your healthcare providers instructions. This will keep the keep the pus that may contain staph or MRSA from spreading to others. The bandages or tape can be discarded with the regular trash.
2. Clean you hands – You, your family and others in close contact should wash their hands frequently with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based waterless hand sanitizer, especially after changing the bandage or touching the infected wound.
3. Do not share personal items – Avoid sharing towels, washcloths, razors, clothing or uniforms that may have had contact with the infected wound or bandage. Wash sheets, towels and clothes that become soiled with hot water and detergent. Drying clothes in a hot dryer rather than air-drying also helps kill bacteria in clothes.
4. Talk to your doctor- Tell any healthcare provider who treats you that you have or have had staph or MRSA infection.

Info: Contact your local State Health Department office.

A Healthy Balance

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Local Planned Parenthood Reacts to STD Spike

With one in four American teenage girls having at least one sexually transmitted disease, according to recently released CDC data, educators at Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania are concerned, especially in Dauphin and York Counties, says Deborah Gable, director of education.

The study also found that this rate was much higher among black girls, with nearly half of them having contracted an STD. The research is based on following 834 girls between the ages of 14 to 19 who participated in a 2003-04 federal health survey. Of those girls, the cervical cancer-causing human papillomavirus affected 18 percent, chlamydia affected 4 percent, trichomoniasis affected 2.5 percent and herpes simplex virus affected 2 percent. While HIV was not included in the study, girls with one or more STDs are at a higher risk for infection.

"We must stop providing education that is heterosexist and conforms to gender stereotypes."

-Deborah Gable

"High STD rates among young women, particularly African-American young women, are clear signs that we must continue developing ways to reach those most at risk," says Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's STD prevention division.

Teenage boys are also reflected in local numbers, says Gable. "The numbers we see for teenage girls certainly reflect a high number of infections in males as well, both teens and adults. People need information about how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies, the effects of which impact men, women and children."

Gable says that "we need to change the tone of the conversation still based on an old fashioned idea that women are the ones to set limits and keep themselves safe and healthy. This puts a huge burden on young women and ignores the impact on young men who are also dealing with the effects of sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies."

Have abstinence only programs fed the rise in STDs? "Young people need accurate information and access to reproductive health care. 'Abstinence only' programs deny teenagers medically accurate information about how to prevent sexually transmitted infections. Abstinence only until marriage programs require that teachers convey the message that sex within marriage is the only acceptable standard in our society, which excludes the large number of people who choose to have sex outside of marriage, including those of who cannot marry," Gable says.

What can parents do? "Parents need help talking with their children about sexual health. We need education programs in our schools that will help keep teens healthy by providing information about abstinence, decision making skills, risk reduction strategies, contraception, and how to prevent sexually transmitted infections. We must stop providing education that is heterosexist and conforms to gender stereotypes. It is time - actually, past time - to offer our young people the life-saving information that they deserve," Gable argues.

Time to Stop Smoking?

Gay and lesbian people are 40-70% more likely to smoke than non-people, according to The National Coalition for LGBT Health. This is one of the highest smoking rates even of all the disproportionately affected subpopulations.

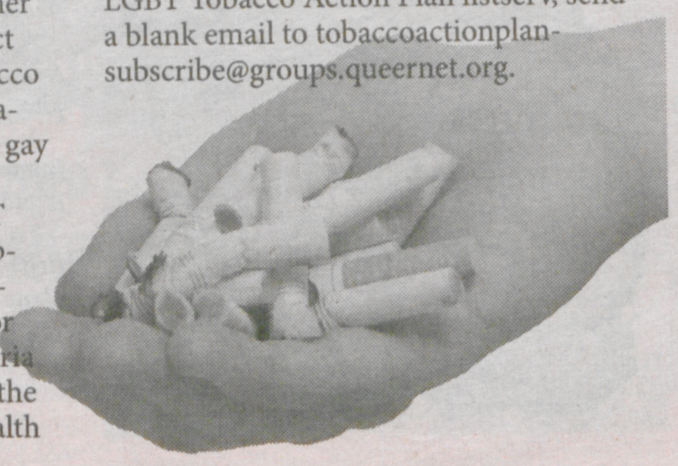
Gay adolescents are taking up smoking at an alarming rate, in a recent national study 45% of females and 35% of males reporting same-sex attraction or behavior smoked. In comparison, only 29% of the rest of the youth smoked. Consequently, the American Cancer Society estimates that over 30,000 gay people die each year of tobacco related diseases.

Do we know why? Several factors such as higher levels of social stress, frequent patronage of bars and clubs, higher rates of alcohol and drug use, and direct targeting of gay consumers by the tobacco industry may be related to higher prevalence rates of tobacco use among some gay people.

The National Coalition for LGBT Health has been a leader in the development of the National LGBT Communities Tobacco Action Plan. The vision for the Action Plan is to establish key criteria and goals to actively address and fight the disproportionate consumption and health burden of tobacco use in the gay youth and adult communities through synergistic collaboration on research, prevention, policy, and education at the local, state, and national levels.

Several national LGBT organizations are actively involved in tobacco cessation: LLEGO, the National Coalition for LGBT Health, the National Association of LGBT Community Centers, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the National Coalition of Lesbian and Feminist Cancer Projects and the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Addiction Professionals.

To be automatically added to the LGBT Tobacco Action Plan listserv, send a blank email to tobaccoactionplan-subscribe@groups.queernet.org.



Education Helps Lessen Transgender Fears

By Kristen Richards

As transgender information has become more readily available, students have been increasingly undergoing gender transition. Youth are transitioning as early as elementary school in some cases. However, several key issues arise during transition that are unique to a school setting in certain geographical areas. These include locker room and bathroom accommodations, personal safety and confidentiality.

Unfortunately, in 2008 transgender students are still bullied, beaten, brutalized and occasionally murdered because of who they are. Bathrooms and locker rooms are potential danger zones and mine fields for them. Fear of discovery, harassment or worse might cause them to avoid using bathrooms and locker rooms altogether. In certain cases, students have developed dehydration and urinary problems as a result.

A Female To Male student/writer named Dylan Forest wrote, "So I stopped using public restrooms unless they were unisex. I learned how to not use a bathroom from the time I left in the morning to the time I got home, and sometimes, that was more than 10 hours."

transgender voice

Hawk Stone, a transgender psychotherapist and consultant recently conducted a seminar called Student Gender Transition at the recent True Colors LGBTQ Youth Conference at University of Connecticut. According to Stone, the key to addressing the issues "is continuing education, confidentiality, open communication, uniformity and fair treatment for all parties involved. A win-win situation."

The transgender student's guardian/parent (s) can prepare for addressing bathroom and locker room concerns by identifying the school's policies and procedures manual and determining the school's commitment to diversity and its glbt inclusion. The guardian/parents can next schedule a meeting to open a dialogue with the student's school guidance counselor and ultimately with school faculty. Confidentiality should be stressed at all times and that discussions are not subject to public discourse. During the meetings, educating everyone involved on transgender issues is critical. Education includes transgender books, web sites, materials and handouts, and arranging for gender therapists/psychologists or transgender speakers for panel discussions. If the student has a comfortable transition timetable, it should also be discussed during the meetings. The student's birth name and gender marker should exist at the administrative level only. That student's true or desired name and gender should appear on all paperwork at the classroom level to eliminate confusion and inconsistencies.

Once everyone is (hopefully) on board, including guidance counselors, faculty and substitute teachers, safe bathroom and locker room accommodations can be put in place for the transgender student. Gender neutral or single seat bathrooms are strongly recommended. Changing clothes in the school nurse's office is suggested to eliminate embarrassing moments. Rearranging the student's gym schedule is also an option.

During Stone's workshop, he asked, "why do people make such a big deal over bathrooms? Who uses the bathroom in your house? Everyone! And families do not make a fuss about bathrooms when guests visit their homes." Interestingly, France has had gender-neutral bathrooms for over forty years.

Changing people's hearts and minds will not occur over night. Some will never change. Education, communication, confidentiality and patience are key for everyone involved. The ultimate goal is safety for the transgender student and for all other parties involved. In essence, when a transgender person undergoes gender transition, the people surrounded by him or her experience a "transition" as well.

Two Wings of a Bird:

Grace and Hard Work

An Interview with Kathryn Pannepacker

BY DEBRA MILLER

Kathryn Pannepacker, best remembered in Harrisburg for her monumental weaving, Peace Flag Piece (figure 1), featured in the "RePop" exhibition at the Susquehanna Art Museum in April-July 2005, had an active month in Philadelphia this March. In addition to curating her biennial fiber arts show at Da Vinci Art Alliance, which this year featured the work of 46 regional textile artists in a salon-style installation, she herself was featured at The Art Gallery of the William Way LGBT Community Center in a solo exhibition, Works Woven, which runs through May 2.

In an eloquent artist's statement at the William Way Center, Kathryn described her style, content, and artistic goals: "Mixing textures, materials and techniques, as well as addressing political, social, and personal agendas, this 'retrospective-of-styles' shows one year's work in the life of a studio artist . . . [who is] committed to art and community." Inspired by this positive message, I was moved to conduct an interview with the artist, to delve further into the meaning she places on her art and life.

Debra Miller: What made you decide to pursue a career in art?

Kathryn Pannepacker: As I kid, I liked to make macramé plant hangers out of jute. I kept experimenting with knots of different kinds. My grandmother was a knitter, my mother did paintings and ceramics, and my father was a florist, so there was always a lot of artistic creativity and interest in color in my family. I was kind of a loner as a child - I loved reading and writing by myself, and developed an interest in words and text. When I went to college, my degree was in Creative Writing, but I also took art courses. Near graduation, my advisor informed me that I only needed one more credit for a minor in Art, so I took a class in weaving. After college, I did an apprenticeship in tapestry weaving, and found that I could make pictures in tapestry, along with weaving textures, so I combined my two areas of interest (English and Art), by morphing text into textiles. The defining moment came to me in 1992, after my apprenticeship in France; I realized that I wanted to make a living at this. I thought about where I could live to make a go of it, so I moved to Philadelphia, where I started hosting art events at my apartment/studio.

DM: Which old masters or contemporary artists have inspired you?

KP: Milton Avery, Horace Pippin, Matisse, Klee—artists known for their color. But I am also, maybe even more, inspired by antique Turkish and Persian nomadic carpets, by their simple palette and designs. I love to see variety in monochrome. I like to do weavings in a single color, such as white, but show tonal modulations by using different materials and varied thicknesses, to create subtle gradations and shadows within the same color.

DM: What do you feel is unique about your work?

KP: I feel that I have something to say in my work, that I have a calling, and with it, a responsibility—more from a human perspective than a political one. Another thing is that my work is always changing, I'm always experimenting and pushing the medium by using new and unexpected materials, like matches, aluminum foil, or Q-tips, for my weavings. And I feel that I'm true to my training in flat-weave tapestry, in that I always return to the pictorial.

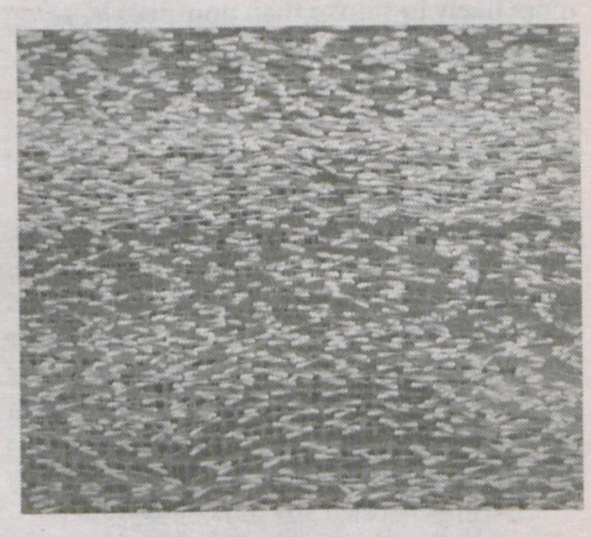
DM: What does art offer to you personally, and to society in general?

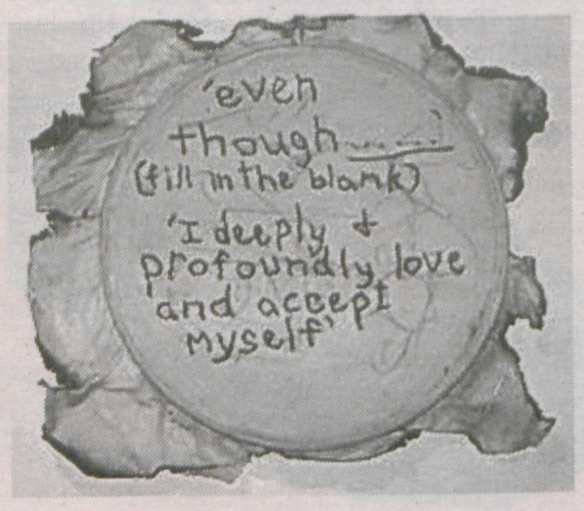
KP: Personally, weaving helps with my peace of mind and relaxation. Over/under, inhale/exhale; it's a very contemplative and meditative process. Generally, I think art is a catalyst for social change, especially art that has a message [like her Peace Project series, of woven flags of different nations currently in conflict]. It opens the door to possibilities, by directing our focus to beauty and creativity, away from stress and negativity.

DM: Has being a woman, or being gay, or having multiple sclerosis hindered your career in any way, or has it opened more possibilities for you?

KP: I can honestly say that I haven't experienced any discrimination for any of that. Of course I'd prefer NOT to have M.S.! But you have to be talented to be offered shows or grants or residencies, you don't just get them because you have an illness, or because you're one thing or another. Being a woman in a woman's art show is really no different than if there's a requirement on an application that you have to be a resident of a certain state to be eligible. I got the show at William Way, but if I weren't a competent artist, even though I'm gay, they wouldn't have offered it to me.

Kathryn Pannepacker is best remembered in Harrisburg for Peace Flag Piece



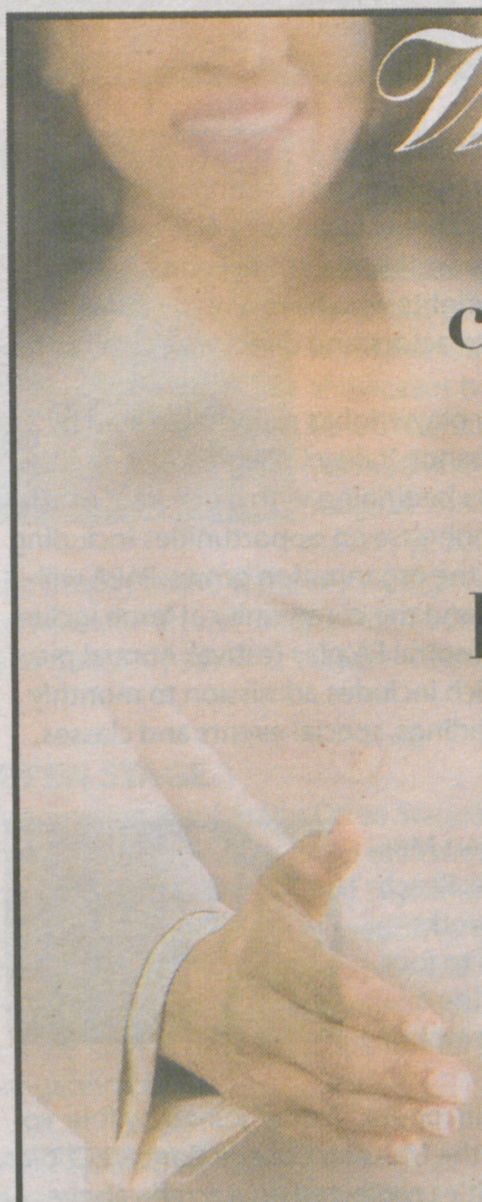


(top) Two Children on Unicycles
photo by Karen Mauch

(above left) Peace Flag Piece
photo by Karen Mauch

(above right) Q-Tip Q Flag
photo courtesy of the artist

(left) EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique)
photo courtesy of the artist



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Kung Fu Panda, from DreamWorks Animation, has been digitally re-mastered into unparalleled image and sound quality. Enthusiastic, big and a bit clumsy, Po is the biggest fan of Kung Fu around. Unexpectedly chosen to fulfill an ancient prophecy, Po's dreams become reality when he joins the world of Kung Fu and studies alongside his idols.

May Performers:

May 3, 8 p.m.
A Tribute to Grover Washington, Jr. - $49.50

May 4, 7:30 p.m.
The Musical Box, The Ultimate Genesis Tribute - $39.50 , $35.50

May 10, 8 p.m.
Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion - $15

May 16, 8 p.m.
XPN Welcomes Loudon Wainwright III - $26

NEW PLAYWRIGHTS ORGANIZATION FORMS

Playwrights Alliance of Pennsylvania (PAPA) recently held its first meeting at Harrisburg's Caffeine Connection. PAPA was founded to serve the needs of playwrights and to support development and production of new works by Central Pennsylvania playwrights. Membership is limited to serious playwrights who have already amassed a body of work. Associate membership is available to actors, and directors as well as to those seeking training as a playwright.

Members' plays are read and discussed at a monthly playwright's roundtable lead by Kevin Pry, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English at Lebanon Valley College. PAPA also plans to produce staged readings of members' works beginning with a program of 10-minute plays in the fall of 2008. PAPA is also a clearinghouse on opportunities including festivals, contests, and production opportunities. As the organization grows, PAPA will also offer educational opportunities to its members and the community at large including seminars, classes, guest lectures, and a possibly Central PA play festival. Annual playwright dues are $60; $25 Associate Membership which includes admission to monthly roundtables. Members pay reduced admission to readings, special events and classes.

HARRISBURG SYMPHONY

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Stuart Malina, announces its 2008-2009 performance schedule: Reaching New Heights. The season features seven Masterworks concerts, the Capital Blue Cross Pops Series expands to four concerts, as well as several special events, including the annual "Stuart & Friends" concert and the Harrisburg Symphony Society's Designer Showhouse and Gardens.

The Masterworks Series will present the classic Puccini opera, "Tosca," joined by four vocal soloists as well as the Susquehanna Chorale and the Messiah College Concert Choir. The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles projected on a screen above the orchestra. The series also features symphonies by Howard Hanson, Beethoven, Mahler, Erwin Schulhoff, Shostakovich, and Tchaikovsky. Info: HarrisburgSymphony.org; (717)545-5527.

LANCASTER SYMPHONY

The Lancaster Symphony Orchestra closes its 60th anniversary May 16-18 with "The Essential Rachmaninoff & Ravel." The concert weekend will also include stunning displays of virtuosity by British pianist Ian Hobson, performing Ignace Jan Paderewski's Piano Concerto in A minor. Maestro Stephen Gunzenhauser showcases two works by Sergei Rachmaninoff and Maurice Ravel. Rachmaninoff's majestic Symphonic Dances will display his magnificent gift for melody and his magical ability to capture orchestral color. Ravel's La Valse will treat concert-goers to the beauty of the waltz in moving contrast to the cynicism and bitterness of wartime Vienna. Fulton Opera House, Lancaster, Tickets $23-$58, 717) 397-7425 or www.thefulton.org.

OPEN STAGE

Man-eating Plant Stalks Open Stage of Harrisburg until May 11 as it presents the hit musical comedy Little Shop of Horrors. A delightful mix of laughs, squirms and screams, Little Shop tells the story of Seymour Krelborn, a down-and-out florist assistant who becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. The play was originally a 1960 cult-hit film by low-budget horror-master Roger Corman which was shot in two days on sets left over from another movie for less than $30,000. Tickets: $30, $24 at 717-214-ARTS (2787) or www.openstagehbg.com.

ARTS AT 510

From May 1-30, Arts at 510, 510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, offers "The City and Beyond" with featured artists: Scott Campbell, pastel; Jonathan Frazier, Christina Heintzelman Jones, photography; Dan Kim, photography; Nancy Mendes, oil and acrylic; Eric Yoho, oil. Opening reception May 2, 5:10 pm-7:10 pm. May 29, Jazz Walk venue for Central PA Friends of Jazz, same time, musician to be announced.

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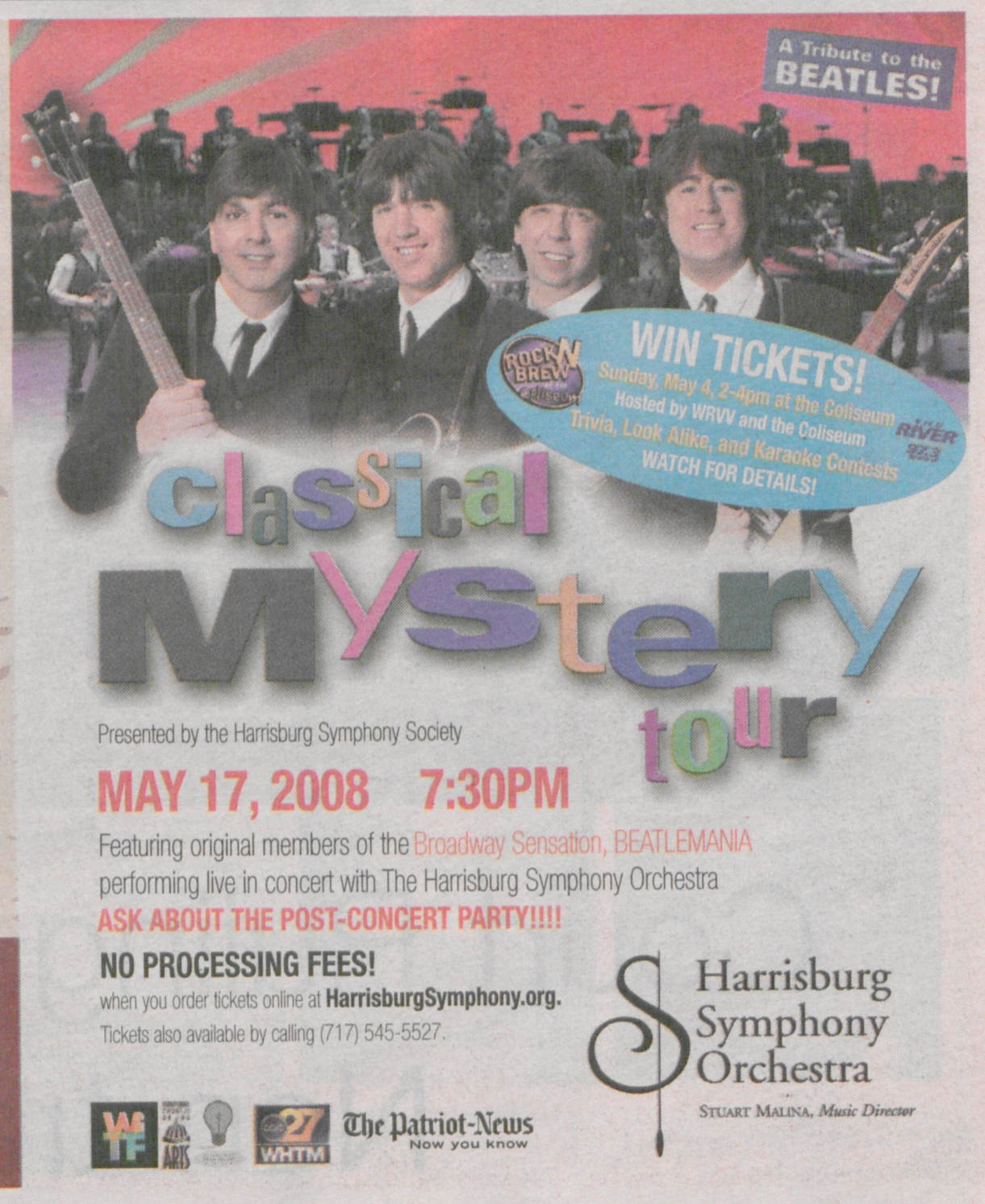
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Court Ruling Acknowledges Non-traditional Family

Calling the decision "a victory for nontraditional families," Attorney Suzanne Friday says Dauphin County Judge Todd Hoover's February ruling that two women in a long-term committed relationship were the legal parents of twins prior to their birth is the first of its kind in central Pennsylvania. Friday practices with Nauman, Smith, Shissler & Hall, LLP, Harrisburg.

The couple, choosing to remain anonymous in order to protect their children, decided on the action in order to fully establish that each is a legally recognized parent of the twins born to the biological mother. The twins were born in Harrisburg in March 2008.

The legal step taken by the couple is commonly called a "pre-birth order," a move that establishes who is a parent and/or legal guardian before birth actually occurs. The couple's legal steps to establish pre-birth parenthood took the form of a Petition for Assisted Conception Birth Registrations, a step advised when, as with this couple, an anonymous sperm donor was used to fertilize eggs from the biological mother in an in vitro fertilization procedure.

After reviewing the women's request for assisted conception birth registrations, one of whom is carrying the twins and is the biological mother, Judge Hoover decided that both women must be listed as the legal parents on the children's birth certificates, and that no father is to be listed on the birth certificates.

The pre-birth order process has been commonly used for traditional couples using gestational carriers, when someone else accepts conception and carries a baby to full term birth for a couple known to each other and who have a biological connection to the child. In contrast, same-sex couples often had to pursue a second parent adoption after birth to secure legal rights for the non-biological parent. By granting a pre-birth order to a same-sex couple in this case, the court recognizes that a biological connection is not always necessary to make a family.

"Supporting the idea that two loving parents, albeit nontraditional ones, are more beneficial for the child, the decision is encouraging news and a groundbreaking development for nontraditional families," Friday says.

Stonewall Democrats Meet Candidates

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats and the Dauphin County Young Democrats sponsored a "Meet the Candidates Night" April 2 at McGrath's Pub, Harrisburg. All Dauphin and Cumberland County Democratic candidates running for seats in the state House and state Senate were invited to attend, along with representatives from the Clinton and Obama campaigns.

Speakers included: State Rep. Ron Buxton, Judy Hirsh, candidate for 15th state Senate District, state representative candidate Paddy Garcia, state Senate candidate Susan Kiskis, Tobias Wolff, chair of Obama's national glbt policy committee, Stephen Dorko, candidate for Clinton Alternate Delegate, state Senate candidate Alvin Q. Taylor, state House candidate Karl Singleton.

Prior to the event Stonewall sent a survey to every Dauphin and Cumberland County Democratic candidate for state House and state Senate. At press time, three had completed the survey.

Ron Buxton is running for reelection in the 103rd state House District (Harrisburg, Steelton, Highspire, and part of Swatara Township). He is a co-sponsor of HB 1400, which bans workplace, housing and financial discrimination against LGBT individuals.

Judy Hirsch is a candidate for the 15th state Senate District (most of Dauphin county and part of York county). This seat is currently held by Republican Jeff Piccola, a "Marriage Protection" Amendment co-sponsor.

Susan Kiskis is a candidate for the 31st state Senate District (all of Cumberland county and part of York county). This seat is currently held by Republican Pat Vance.

1. If (re)elected, will your office human relations policy ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Yes
Susan Kiskis: Yes

2. Would you support providing domestic-partner benefits to state employees?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Yes

3. On January 17, 2008, Pennsylvania State Senators started working to pass a so-called Marriage Protection Amendment that would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as solely between one man and one woman and prohibit civil unions. If (re)elected, will you oppose amending the state constitution to ban recognition of same-sex marriage and/or civil unions?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Yes

4a. Would you support providing same-sex couples with access to civil marriage that carries the name "marriage"?
Ron Buxton: Not sure
Judy Hirsch: Probably, I might need some more information on this. Do you mean able to obtain a marriage certificate from the county?

4b. If you oppose use of the tern "marriage", would you support providing same-sex couples with access to civil unions that provide all the legal rights and responsibilities of civil marriage?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Yes

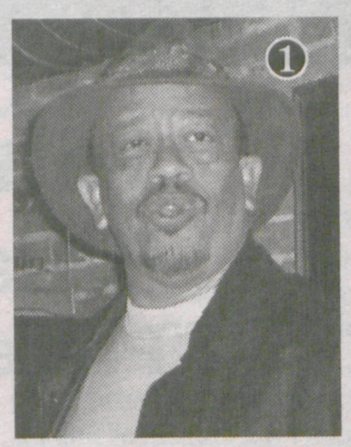
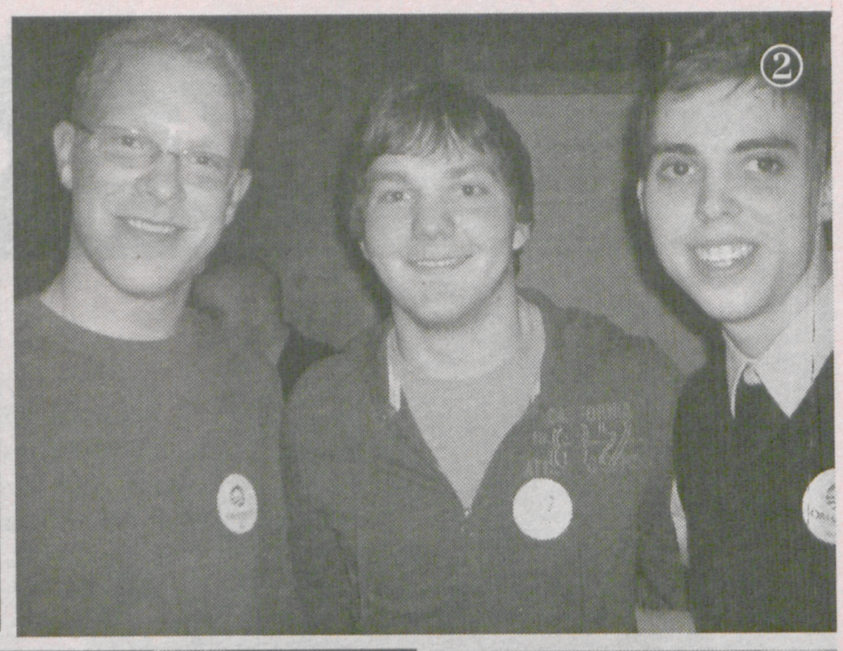
5. If (re)elected, will you support legislation to ban workplace, housing and financial discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity or expression (HB1400 and SB761)?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch Yes
Susan Kiskis Yes

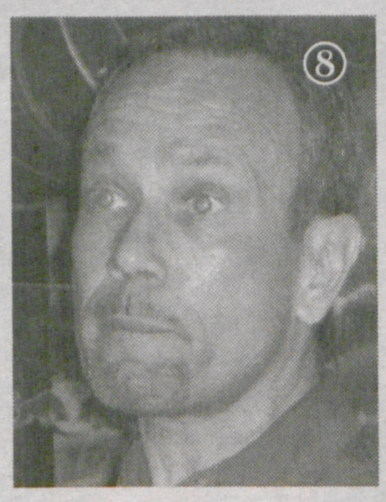
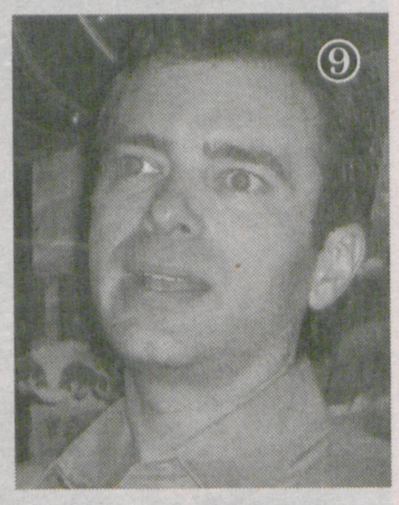
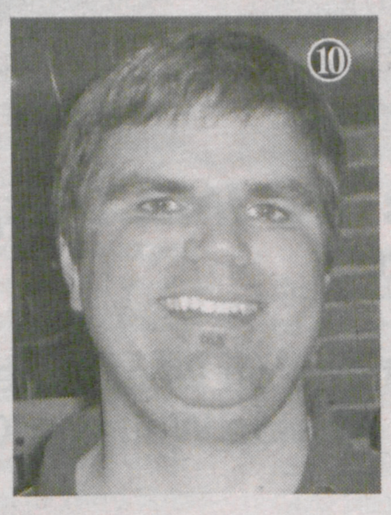
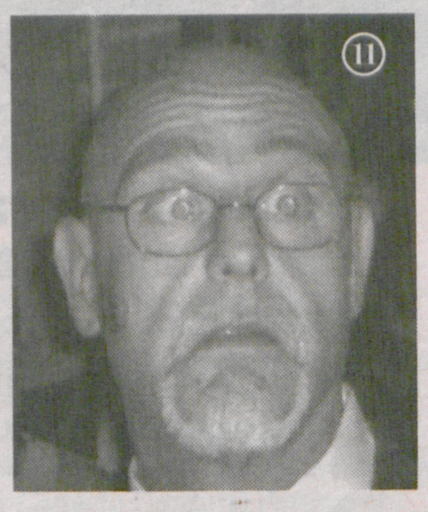
6. Would you oppose restrictions on the adoption rights of LGBT individuals and same-sex couples?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Yes

7. Would you support passage of Senate Bill 71 to amend the Public School Code to require schools to develop a Bullying Prevention Program Policy?
Ron Buxton: Yes
Judy Hirsch: Absolutely

8. What will be your top priority during the next legislative session?
Ron Buxton: One of my priorities is passage of HB 1400.
Judy Hirsch: Improving education and the helping to build a stronger economy.
Susan Kiskis: Universal health care for Pennsylvanians and Clean Air.
Additional comment by Susan Kiskis: To your questions above, the state should focus what it is designed for like infrastructure and education. The state has no business in legislating relationships or emotions of the heart.

Info: www.capitalstonewall.org.

1) State Senate candidate Alvin Q. Taylor.
2) Adam Porter, O'Bama campaign volunteer, Blake Farnsworth, O'Bama staff, John Campbell, Dauphin County Young Democrats president
3) Stephen Glassman, Chairperson, PA Human Relations Commission and Alanna Berger, Silent Witness PA. Originally from Baltimore, John Waters lives a half block from Glassman's mom.
4) Paddy Garcia running for state representative.
5) State Senate candidate Judy Hirsh.
6) State House candidate Karl Singleton.
7) State Rep. Ron Buxton
8) Stephen Dorko, candidate for Clinton Alternate Delegate
9) Tobias Wolff, chair of Sen. Barak Obama's national glbt policy committee.
10) Jeff Whelshen, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats co-chair.
11) Lee Geisler, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats co-chair.

Whitaker Center Presents

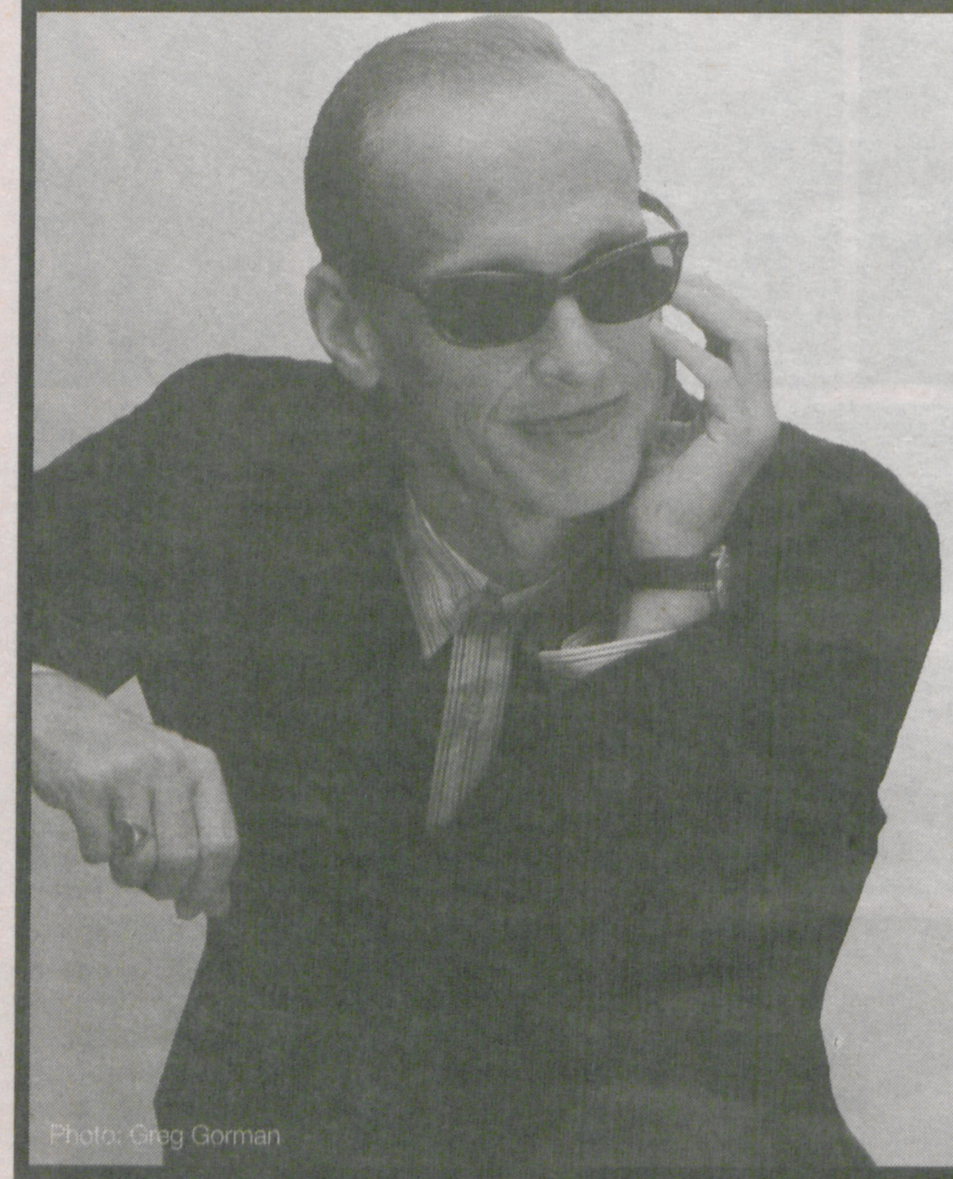


Photo: Greg Gorman

John Waters

Friday, May 23

Presenting his unique perspectives in the hilarious and compelling "This Filthy World," 7pm

Also, Champagne reception with the director, 8:30pm

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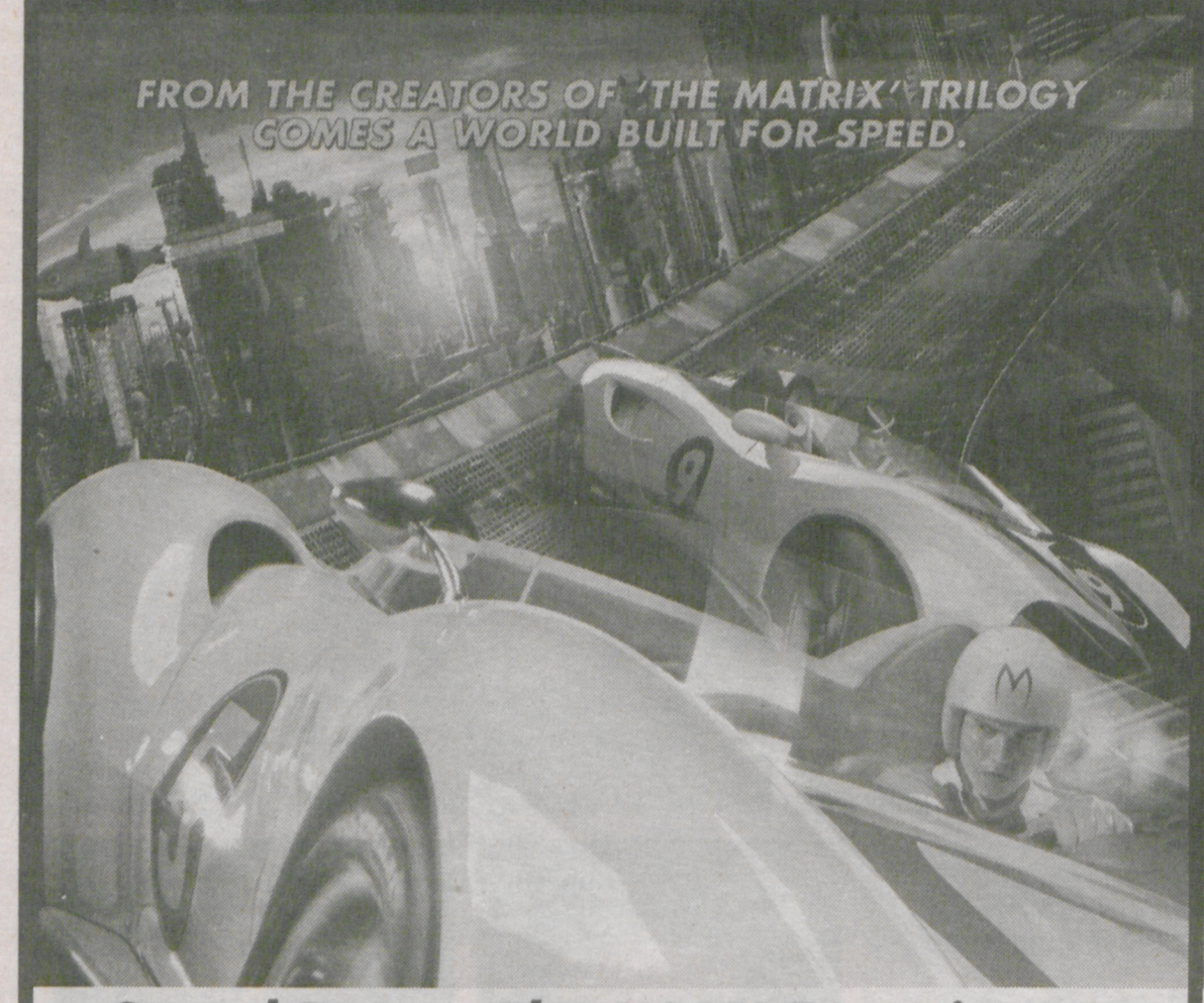

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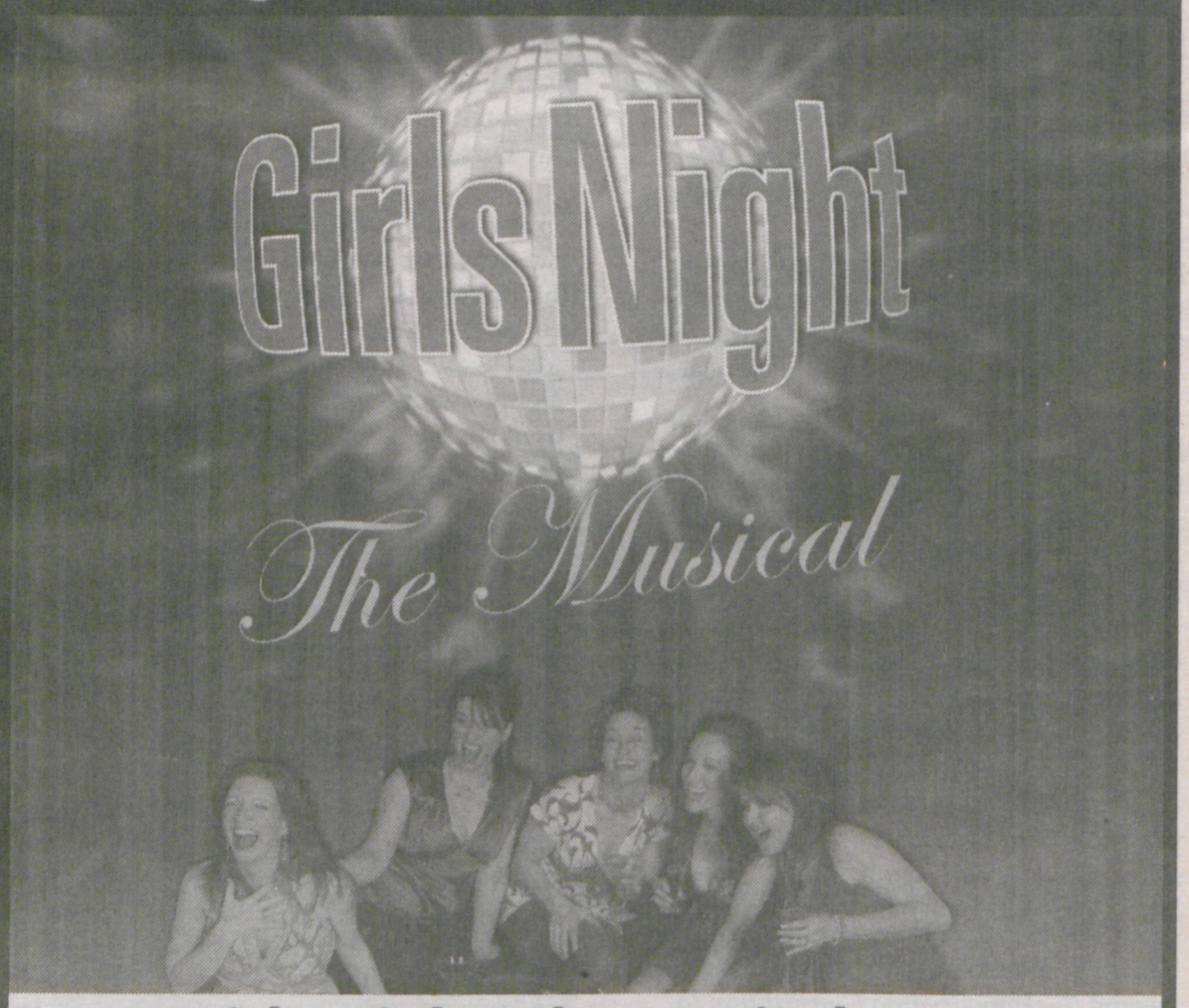

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George Bailey - Aka Jimmy Stewart - is 100 May 20

BY JOHN DILEO

One of Hollywood's most unambiguously straight stars (on-screen and off), James Stewart, born 100 years ago on May 20th, is hardly a gay icon. Unlike Spencer Tracy in love with Clark Gable in Test Pilot (1938), Stewart never played a role with a gay subtext of amatory longing for a male co-star, but that doesn't mean there isn't any gayness in Stewart's roles and films.

In his MGM years (1935-1941), he starred in two extravagant travesties: The Ice Follies of 1939, opposite Joan Crawford (no threat to Sonja Henie), and the kitschy musical Ziegfeld Girl (1941), a 40s Valley of the Dolls with Lana Turner, Hedy Lamarr, and Judy Garland. In the former, he plays a figure skater eager to create elaborate ice shows (sounds gay to me), but in both films Stewart is out of place and uncomfortable, utterly separate from the films' campier aspects.

In Ziegfeld Girl, though top-billed, he's on the drab sidelines as Lana's trucker boyfriend. Imagine MGM assigning him such a demeaning role after The Philadelphia Story!

Stewart made four thrillers with Alfred Hitchcock, the first (and least successful) being Rope (1948), as explicitly gay a film as could be made at that time. Based on the Leopold and Loeb case, the main characters are a gay couple who have committed a thrill murder (a strangulation) right before hosting a dinner party. The lovers, whose cohabitation is presented matter-of-factly, are played by gay actors, an arch John Dall and an overwrought Farley Granger, and the screenplay was written by a gay playwright, Arthur Laurents. The other seemingly gay role went to Stewart, who appears clueless about what's really going on. He plays the boys' former prep-school housemaster, and is sorely miscast, lacking the sophistication and wit that someone like James Mason would have rightly brought to the role. Why would these boys idealize Stewart, who more or less shows up as himself and keeps his distance from them? It's an overheated melodrama, grisly yet empty and pretentious. It may be gay but it's also mediocre.

Elwood P. Dowd, from Harvey (1950), is one of Stewart's most beloved characterizations. Affable and oblivious, Elwood is a wealthy, 42-year-old fellow whose best friend is Harvey, an invisible 6'3" white rabbit. Stewart is wonderful in the part, easy and warm and effortlessly funny. The overall film feels pushed and contrived, yet Stewart never makes a false move.

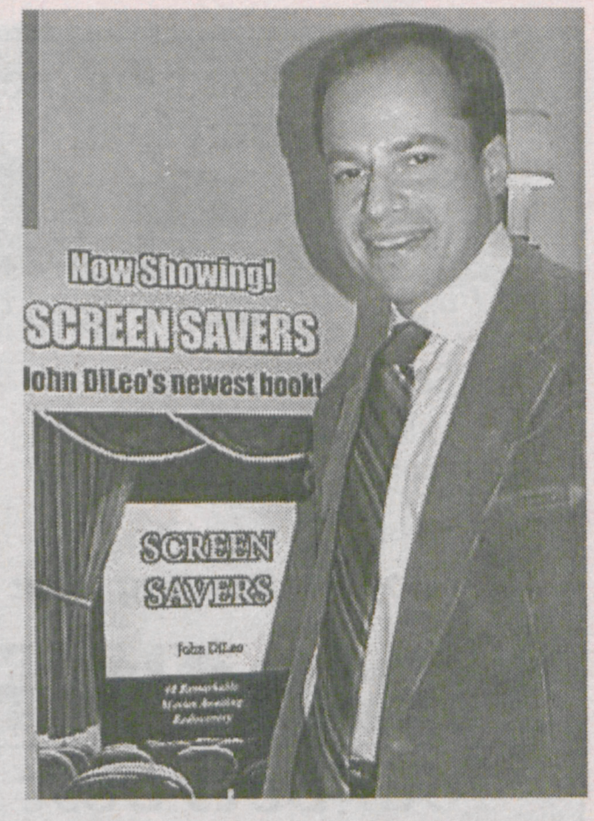
I'm struck by how well Harvey works as a gay metaphor, and not just because Harvey is a pooka (a "fairy spirit" in animal form). After all, Elwood is a never-married middle-aged man whose closest companion is invisible to 1950 America. His family wants him "cured" but he's happy as he is. Harvey is a family secret, a source of embarrassment for Elwood's family (but not for Elwood). Harvey and Elwood met in a cruising situation, on the street, and they frequent bars. Free and open, if not quite out loud and proud, Elwood is the film's happiest character. Things get trickier when doctor (and closet case?) Cecil Kellaway falls under Harvey's spell, and now two mortals want Harvey's company. (Harvey sticks with Elwood.) What other movie of that era ends with two males joyously paired off for the future? It's a coded gay comedy of acceptance.

Stewart starred in five terrific westerns in the 1950s for director Anthony Mann, and The Far Country (1955) may be the best of them. In one of his darker roles, Stewart plays an isolated individual resistant to the notion of community. He gets in on the Canadian gold rush, sharing a claim with sidekick Walter Brennan. A handy gunman, Stewart refuses the locals' request to become their marshal, lacking any interest in helping others and preferring his outsider status. The movie expertly tracks the recovering of his humanity. It's Brennan's character who provides the homosexual tendencies. With his grizzled appeal, old-geezer Brennan displays all the compassion and warmth lacking in Stewart. His nurturing devotion to Stewart—he cooks, washes, and keeps house—isn't what you expect from a business partner.

Though they've already been together many years, Brennan longs for the day when they can settle down on a ranch. Hardly a candidate for Brokeback Mountain, grandfatherly Brennan comes off as asexual and naïve, unaware of a gay attachment. But it surely is unusual and forward-thinking for a 1950s western (set in 1896) to depict one man pining for domestic bliss with another. Brennan played similar roles in other westerns, including Red River (1948). Once again, Stewart inadvertently appeared in a movie rife with homosexual stirrings.

Happy 100, Jimmy, and Happy Anniversary to Elwood and Harvey, too.

John DiLeo's new book is Screen Savers (2008). Other John DiLeo Books: And You Thought You Knew Classic Movies: 200 Quizzes for Golden Age Movie Lovers 100 Great Film Performances You Should Remember - But Probably Don't



Screen Savers a Real Treasure

When you want to know the skinny on classic films, readers can always count on Central Voice writer John DiLeo. The New Yorker's Pauline Kael called his movie quiz book "the smartest movie quiz book I've ever read…".

DiLeo's extends his reputation with his latest book, "Screen Savers: 40 Remarkable Movies Awaiting Rediscovery." He takes us on a film lover's holiday. The author offers full-bodied appraisals of each of his selections, breezily combining scholarly acumen with a film fanatic's passion. DiLeo utilizes his lively, accessible style and sharp, insightful critical eye, venturing beyond obvious choices and whetting our appetites to see these vital movies. Be they underseen, dismissed, or taken-for-granted in their day, the films in Screen Savers deserve a place of honor in our film heritage.

Boris Karloff will forever be Frankenstein's Monster, but is that any reason for us to overlook his later great horror film Isle of the Dead (1945)? An Oscar was George Clooney's reward for Syriana (2005), but isn't the underrated war film Three Kings (1999) still his best movie? Woman of the Year (1942) introduced the team of Tracy and Hepburn, yet didn't their later Pat and Mike (1952) resoundingly surpass it?

Jeff Bridges has long been one of our best actors, so why didn't anyone take notice of his sleeper Bad Company (1972)? The lasting impact of Psycho (1960) unfairly overshadows Anthony Perkins's great work in the darkly comic thriller Pretty Poison (1968), while Stanley Kubrick's later work keeps his terrific caper The Killing (1956) from attaining classic status. Can you really say you love Audrey Hepburn if you haven't seen her at her most radiant in Stanley Donen's gem Two for the Road (1967)?

Screen Savers puts the spotlight on these and other superb yet underappreciated movies spanning the twentieth century. Essential stars and directors are represented here, not for their undisputed marvels but for other equally wonderful films that warrant overdue or renewed recognition: Cover Girl, They Came to Cordura, Portrait of Jennie, The Seventh Cross, The Lusty Men, Hail the Conquering Hero, Rambling Rose, Time after Time, and many others.

Center Coalition Seeks Office Manager-Writer

Formed in 2006, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender ("LGBT") Center Coalition is a volunteer-led effort to create a regionally representative community center as both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county lgbt population.

The mission is to create common ground for the gay community and allies by providing services through support, educational and cultural activities in the service area of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York Counties.

The Office Manager/Writer will be expected to coordinate communications efforts for the fledgling community center in its eight-county service area. This will entail drafting news and event postings for the Center Coalition website, drafting a periodic e-newsletter, keeping mailing lists updated and reaching out to all lgbt and allied organizations in the service area to participate in the web site as a "virtual community center."

The position will also require general office duties such as responding to correspondence and phone inquiries, coordinating mailings and providing support for Center Coalition programs and fundraising events.

Responsibilities will include: 1. Work with the Communications Committee and the Web Site Administrator to develop and maintain the currency of information on the web site. 2. Work with the Communications Committee to develop an e-newsletter, draft material for same and coordinate periodic publication of same. 3. Develop and maintain the various mailing lists for the Center Coalition. 4. Work to develop and strengthen relationships with LGBT and allied organizations within the eight-county service area. 5. Provide general office support for the Center Coalition communications and other activities. 6. Provide administrative support for Center Coalition programming and fundraising efforts, including helping to coordinate special events for the purpose of fundraising. 7. Report on communications efforts to the Board of Directors. 8. Other duties as required.

The skills and experience requested: Event coordination experience helpful, excellent written and oral communications skills, past experience demonstrating ability to work independently, past experience working with web site content and newsletters, with related computer skills, experience working in a multi-cultural environment, especially knowledge and understanding of glbt populations, experience with MS Office programs and general administrative functions, strong organizational and planning skills, experience with or knowledge and understanding of the non-profit sector.

The successful candidate will work primarily at TFEC, 200 North Third Street, Harrisburg. Some minimal travel in the service area may be required. Evening or weekend work may be required.

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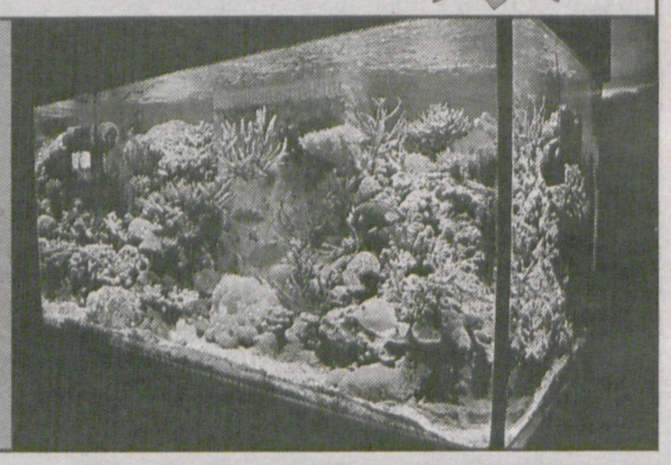

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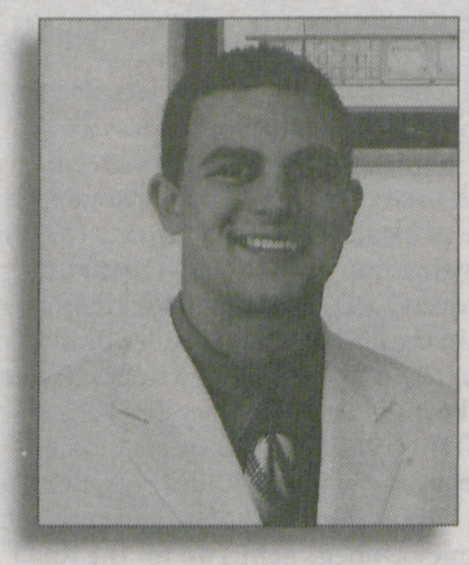

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Baby Boom: Humane Society Seeks Foster Homes

Each spring and summer means one thing for the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area (HSHA) – kitten season. Kitten season is the time of year that many stray cats give birth, resulting in dozens of incoming kittens to HSHA. HSHA seeks foster homes for these cats and kittens, many of which need time to grow and wean before adoption.

Foster families are a vital component of assisting HSHA during kitten season. They help to ease overcrowding and provide the extra attention and care that cannot always be given in the shelter environment. No experience is necessary to serve as a foster home. Instead, families simply need to be open to loving a needy pet and willing to learn. When the kittens are then old enough to be adopted, foster families return them to the shelter.

"Kitten season starts earlier each year. We are already seeing an increase in the number of kittens and pregnant cats coming to HSHA this year," said Kelly Hitz, director of public relations for the Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Inc.

HSHA provides detailed instructions and supplies to all foster homes. Potential foster homes should be able to provide an isolated area, separate from other pets, and owned pets should be current on all vaccines. People interested in applying to be a foster home can obtain an application by calling 717.564.3320.

Clinic Tackles Cat Overpopulation

The Humane Society of Harrisburg Area, Inc. (HSHA) and PAWS recently partnered to offer a low-cost feral cat spay/neuter program for residents of Swatara Township. Both organizationswanted to reduce the reproduction of feral, or wild, cats in Swatara Township, where a large population of feral cats currently exists.

The clinic accommodated about 50 cats with surgeries performed by Keystone Veterinary Services. Each cat received spay/neuter surgery, rabies vaccination and certificate, distemper and upper respiratory virus vaccination, testing for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency viruses, post-operative antibiotic injection, flea and worm treatments, ear cleaning, and mite treatment.

"It will take a combined effort of all of us working together - individuals, rescues, shelters, the community - in order to successfully control the feral and stray cat overpopulation via the only proven method, trap-neuter-return (TNR). This collaboration between a rescue organization (PAWS), a shelter (HSHA), and municipal government (Swatara Township) is the beginning of our communities working together to humanely control animal overpopulation," said Kathy Smith, president of PAWS.

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Tea Dance Only Ticket $10 per person Dance! Dance! Dance! The 5th Annual Tropicanza! *Tea Dance Only Ticket is good for Tea Dance admission only 7:30 - 9:30 pm This ticket entry starts at 7:30 pm, and allows access to first floor only.*

To Reserve Your Tickets Now! or for More Information: Please Call: 717.920.9534 (or email: Michelle@commonroads.org) www.commonroads.org

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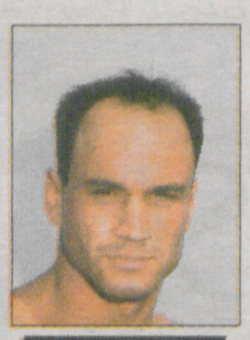

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REVIEWS

BOOKS
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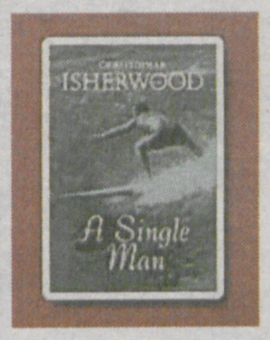
BOOK: **Uncle Bobby's Wedding**
With same-sex marriage regularly in the news, readers may find it useful to have some suggested dialogue around the topic for family. "Uncle Bobby's Wedding," by G. P. Putnam's Sons, is called "a lovely, charming book. It's about time" by reviewer Tomie de Paola. Reviewer Gregory Maguire called the book "Valiant, valid, validating, valuable." An Uncle bobby himself, Robert Sabuda says "What a joy! I'm thrilled that Sarah Brannen's beautiful and moving tale has arrived just in time for the young, twenty-first century reader."



DVD: **Isherwood's "The Single Life" a Classic Movie?**
Wake up. Go to work. Head to the gym. Flirt with a student. Welcome to a day in the lonely life of George, a 58-year-old gay college professor at the center of Christopher Isherwood's humorous and heartbreaking 1964 novel, A Single Man. When we heard that fashion designer Tom Ford was possibly itching to turn the book into a feature film (according to a recent report in Women's Wear Daily), we dug up our copy of the gay-lit classic and found the brief tome is well worth a read — or a reread. Isherwood, the prolific author of The Berlin Stories, on which Cabaret is based, excels at making George's mundane tasks amusing. While chatting with a colleague, George zones out and cruises two hot tennis players. This unabashed depiction of gay lust was far ahead of its time when the book was written more than 40 years ago. A Single Man is available now from University of Minnesota Press.

DVD: **Boy Crush Shorts**
This massively entertaining package of gay short dramas is jam-packed with boy crushes! Includes Summer, Night Swimming, Running Without Sound, Out Now, The Bridge, Hitchcocked, Oedipus N+1.

DVD: **When Night Is Falling**
The first unrated version released in any format in the US. Successful in her teaching job at a conservative religious college, Camille (Pascale Bussières) looked forward to marrying her adoring, minister boyfriend (Henry Czerny) and settling down to the conventions of family and career. But a chance encounter with a beautiful, irresistibly sensuous young female circus performer named Petra (Rachael Crawford) is about to transform Camille's predictable life into an electrifyingly erotic adventure.

CD: **Atlantis Dance 2008**
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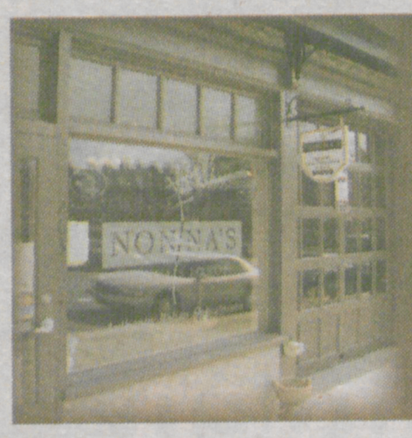

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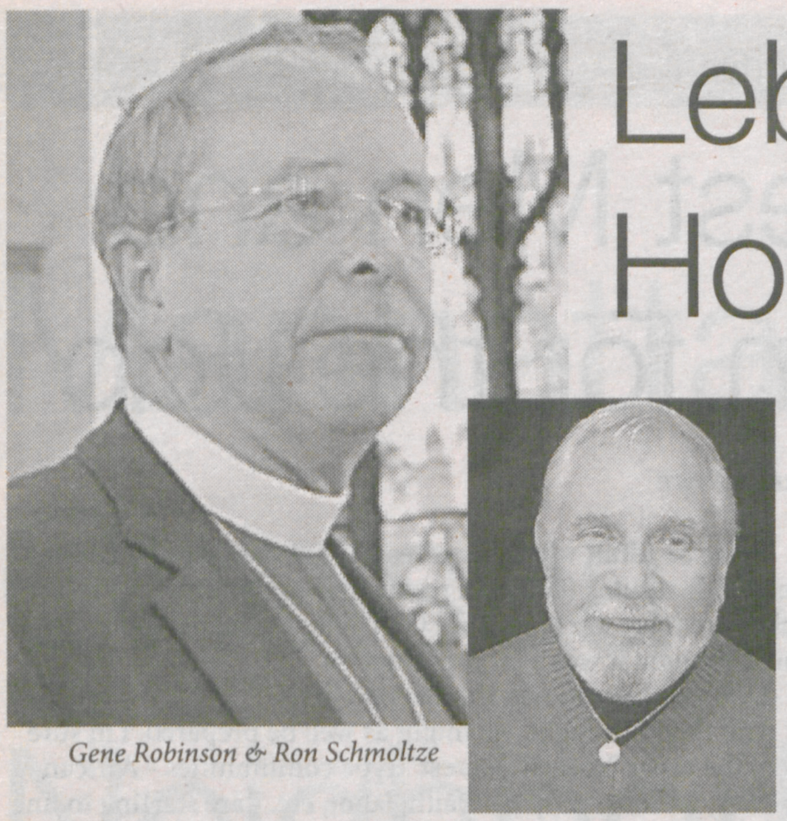
Lebanon Valley College Hosts Controversial Figures



Gene Robinson & Ron Schmoltze

Lebanon's 71-year-old Ron Schmoltze had some wise words for both young and old, straight and gay people when he spoke last month at Lebanon Valley College's Gay-Straight Alliance known as Freedom Rings. A week-long series of events celebrated the history and richness of gay life.

Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay ordained priest of his church, also spoke. Robinson had to wear a bullet-proof vest when he first appearance before his own church body.

Robinson's homosexual feelings were privately acknowledged in the 1970s, when he studied in seminary, was ordained, married, and started a family. He went public with his sexual identity and divorced in the 1980s. When delegates to the Episcopal convention were voting on the ratification of his election, he was a controversial figure.

Schmoltze is passionate abut how the gay community's silence helps to keep them down. He wholeheartedly encourages all of us to confront discrimination.

"When a bigot comes face to face with the thing that he hates and fears most, he will usually back down, if the meeting is one on one," Schmoltze. He thinks groups are effective, "but personal contact is hard for a bigot to ignore, or claim the protection of his fellow bigots."

Schmoltze observes that many gay individuals say the best anecdote to bigotry is for other people to get to know them, yet so few are willing to be out. They see educating the public as someone else's job. "There's a lot of fear on both sides. Gays fear the condemnation of family, friends and employers. Straights fear all the crap they've been taught about gays might be true, i.e. we might just try to convert them," He says. He says laughing that "I'm 72 and have had no luck so far."

"Being out is scary at first," Schmoltze says, "but as the people around you get used to the idea, the intelligent people quite often will go out of their way to show their approval. The dumb ones are a lost cause."

In the face of fear Schmoltze advises moving on quickly. "As for educating the public, every single person that comes out helps, and it gets better all the time. Those that can't get over their fear must be forgiven. It takes a long time to teach people to be ashamed of themselves and most religious training only makes things worse."

Schmoltze also recognizes the role "internalized homophobia" has played in crippling the advancement of basic civil rights. "Sad to say but our history is full of people who hated their own gayness so much that it drove them to take it out on other gays. Sen. Larry Craig comes to mind and the infamous Sen. Joe McCarthy. If you hate who and what you are, it's hard to get others to like and understand you," He says.

Regarding his own sense of fear as a young gay man, Schmoltze says,"I was there the night the Stonewall Riots in Sheridan Square, although I was a spectator. At that time I would not have had the guts to participate. The guts came later."

The venue also included a screening of "Jim in Bold," a movie about the unfortunate suicide of a young Jim Wheeler, whose mother Susan spoke following the film.

Mountville MCC Launches Hope Connection, Inc.

"We're looking to answer God's call, not compete," says senior pastor Reverend Debbie Coggin about Hope Connection, Inc., a new community-based service birthed by Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church, Mountville.

The new service's first fund-raiser, "Comedy for a Cause", is June 21 with details below.

Lancaster County is the focus of the new service offered to underserved gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning individuals and people living with HIV/AIDS. "Vision of Hope MCC's vision statement is that we be 'led by Christ, empowered to rock the world.' We are striving to reach out to those we believe are underserved populations," says Pastor Debbie.

The goals of the Hope Connection are: to provide a safe and welcoming space for LGBTQ youth and adults to access educational resources; to provide HIV/AIDS support, testing and counseling; and to eventually provide some form of transitional housing for the homeless and/or displaced in our communities.

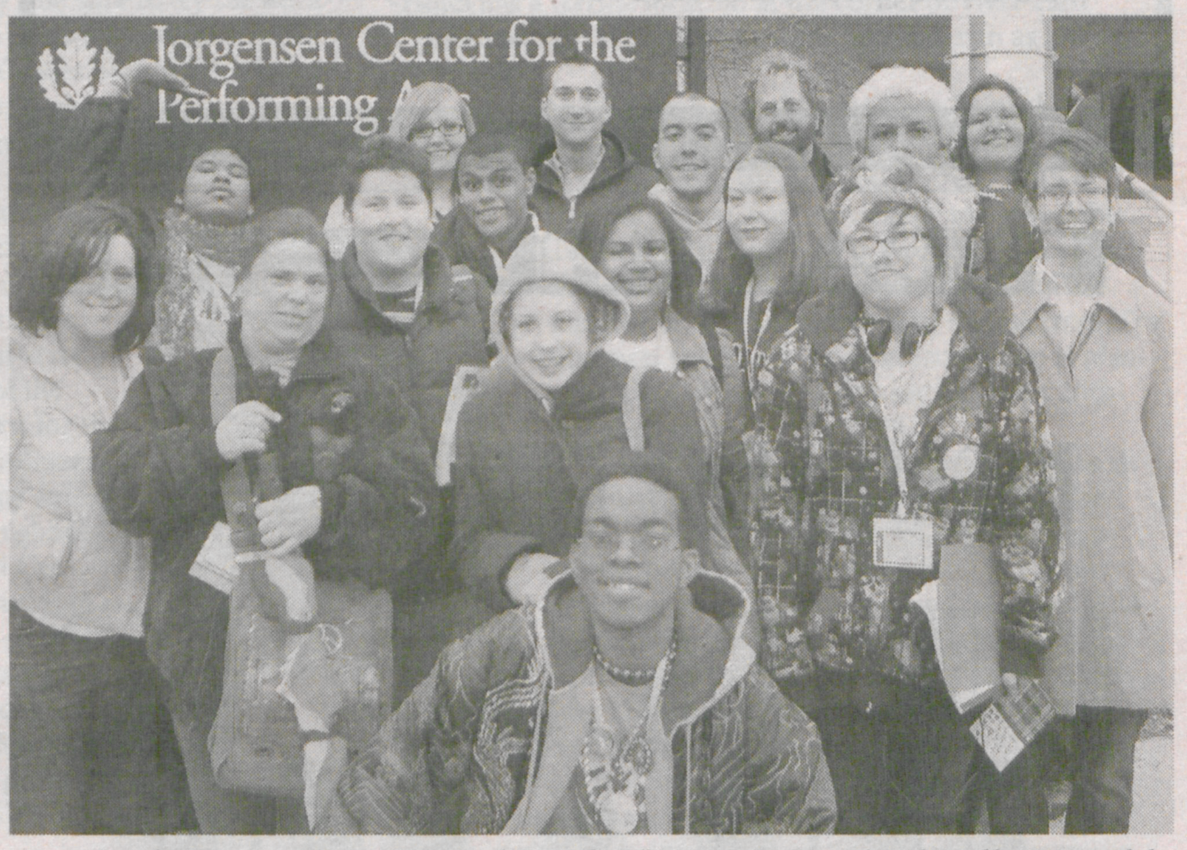
Hope Connection began with Pastor Debbie's process of discernment and developed from conversations about how the Mountville church, as a community of faith, might better serve glbtq and HIV/AIDS communities and answer God's call to rock the world.

"Because there are many folks who do not have ready access to places on the outskirts of Lancaster City, it made sense to develop this new program in the heart of downtown Lancaster. This way we can provide services for glbtq folks and people living with HIV/AIDS that are welcoming but not so far from their comfort zone," says Mykal Slack, student clergy at Vision of Hope.

The group recently became incorporated as a non-profit organization by the PA Department of State and is now in the process of seeking its own nonprofit status under federal law, separate and apart from the nonprofit status of the church itself.

"Comedy for a Cause", a benefit comedy show, is the new service's first attempt at fundraising. It will be held at the auditorium of Reynolds Middle School on the evening of Lancaster's first Pride celebration, June 21, 7:30pm. Tickets are $65 for the show and a reception with its headliners and $50 for the show only. For more information about "Comedy for a Cause", visit their website at www.comedyforacause.net.

For more information about Hope Connection, Inc. and how you can become apart of this effort, please contact Pastor Debbie Coggin via email at revdebbiecoggin@aol.com or by telephone at 717-285-9070.



Attendees from Common Roads, Planned Parenthood's Curve Group and York High's GLASS Club pictured here from front to back, left to right: Dantavien Marine, Yvonne Rothstein, Daniella Volker, Erica Rich, Rachel Imboden, Shannon Cunningham, Kara Johnson, Kiko Brabham, Aaron Rodriguez, Amber Lee, Debbie Gable, Salem Ghoweri, Chris Patterson, Kara Randlett, Chris Donchak, Rodd Robertson and Hope Harrison.

True Colors XV: A Global Perspective

By Kristen Richards

More than 2,000 glbtqa kids, young adults, teachers, chaperones, musicians and artists stormed University of Connecticut's Campus on March 13-15 for True Colors XV: A Global Perspective. TC's mission is "To create a world where youth, adults and families of all sexual orientation and gender identities are valued and affirmed."

After the keynote session and workshops for professionals on day one, there were two solid days of educational seminars for youth, allies, activists and college kids. The seminars ranged from "Hip Hop and Homophobia" to "Dangerous Living – Coming out in a the Developing World." Other workshops included "Drag King 101 – Strut For Success with All The Kings Men" and "Ex Gay! No Way!"

The conference ended with a youth only dance, ages 21 and under. In between 170+ workshops and the dance, ideas were exchanged, friendships were formed and young minds were opened to embracing both similarities and differences at the core of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender orientation/expression and religion.

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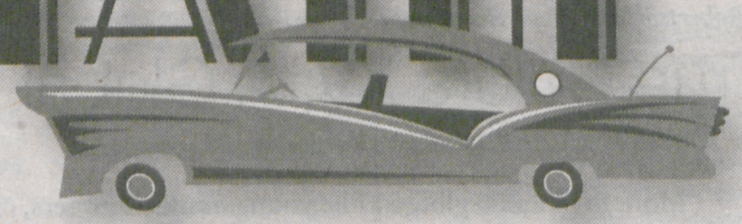

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The Best Men and Women for the Job

BY LIBBY POST

I have to admit when I first read about the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Institute's (GLLI) "Presidential Appointments Project," to make sure there are plenty of LGBT folks in the new administration, I thought it was a bit presumptive.

Don't we have to win the election first?

And then I thought, we might as well be prepared. I'm sure many of the other "special interest"-type communities - African Americans, Latinos, people of faith, labor, etc. - are starting to line up for jobs. We should be, too - after all, it's all about visibility, isn't it?

GLLI is run out of the Lesbian and Gay Victory Fund, and its president and CEO is Chuck Wolfe - who's also the president and CEO of the Victory Fund, which is all about electing LGBT candidates to office throughout the land. They've done a good job of it, too. We have more LGBT elected officials now than ever before. And by and large, these are elected officials who happen to be LGB or T. For the most part, fighting for our rights is just part of their platforms for change.

When we look at presidential appointments, we can't simply out forward the names of folks to the new president's transition team just because they're part of our community. They have to have credible professional backgrounds, with the skills, insight, and intelligence to carry out the policy initiatives of a new administration. They should be LGBT individuals who have distinguished themselves beyond the work they have done in our community.

"I think those people in the gay community who have worked for the common interest have clearly developed skills and talents that any new administration would want," said Ginny Apuzzo, a longtime activist for LGBT rights and a West Wing alum.

"If you want to be in the White House, I would say, work in your community, but then move your community beyond itself, and develop an expertise that gives you the credentials to run an agency in the federal government."

Apuzzo's own career reflects her perspective. She served at executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force early in the organization's history, and worked tirelessly for LGBT rights - but didn't box herself into just working in LGBT organizations. She taught; she worked in New York City government. When I met Ginny, she was the deputy commissioner of the New York State Consumer Protection Board during the Cuomo administration, where she also served as the governor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community. She then went on to become the president of the state's Civil Service Commission, and eventually became the highest ranking openly gay person in the

White House serving in the Clinton administration, as the assistant to the president for management and administration - she basically ran the day-to-day operations at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

"I didn't go to the White House as a gay activist, but as a person with 15 years experience in administration," she told me in a recent phone interview.

Having experience, a breadth and depth of knowledge, political acumen - these are what any new administration will be looking for.

If McCain is elected, it will be politics as usual, and the majority of us - except for a few gay GOPers - can keep our day jobs. If it's President Obama, as I think it will be, we have to be prepared for a new way of doing business.

"Obama talks about bring a new mindset to Washington," said Apuzzo. "That's the keenest statement that he makes - not just new personnel, but a new way of thinking and not the old way of doing things."

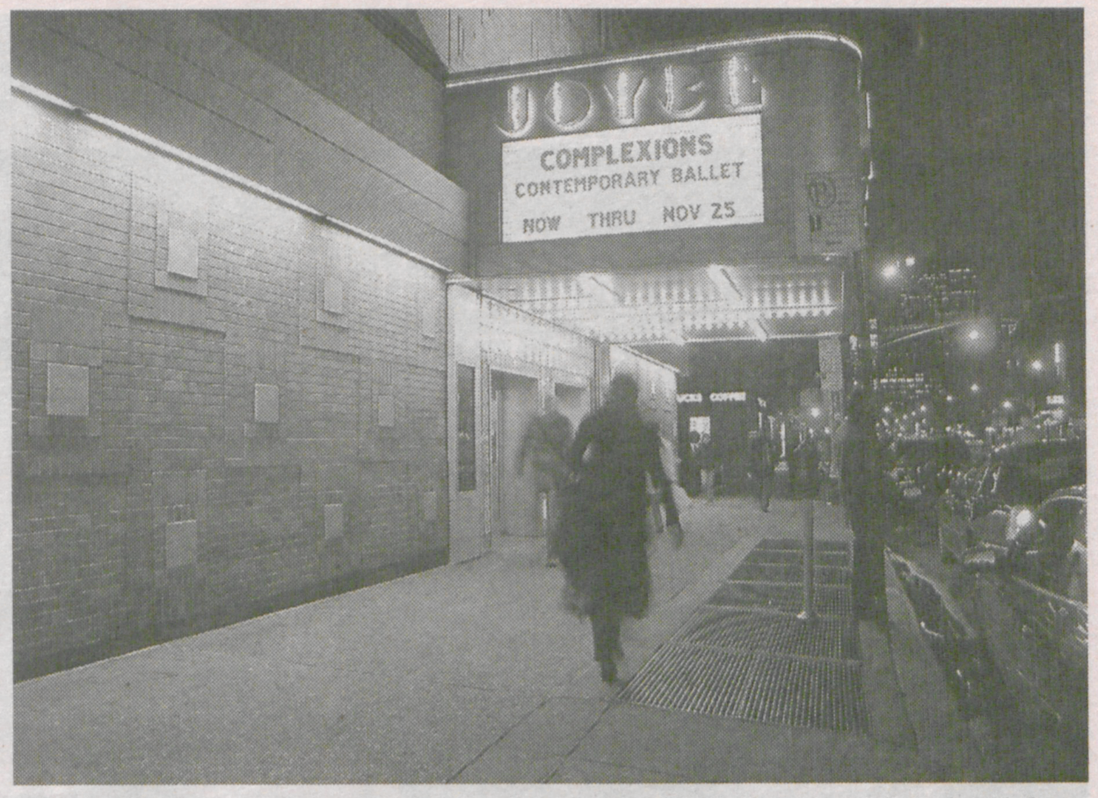
If that's the case, lining our folks up with resumes and sitting down with transition teams may not be what waits for us after Election Day. Like Eliot Spitzer has done in New York State, Obama may forgo the traditional way of doling out jobs and look for the best and the brightest - folks with talent who weren't even looking for a government position.

That's what happened to David Hansell, an openly gay man, whose government expertise ranges from advocating on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, to being the Chief of Staff at the New York City Human Resources Administration. He never put his name in for his new job as New York State Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Someone sent his resume to Spitzer, who saw in David a commitment to public service and to helping those in need. David is one of those people who has helped move our community beyond our own issues by working for the greater good.

As the Presidential Appointments Project moves forward and resumes roll in, it will behoove those vetting credentials to make sure the folks they put forward are the folks who can move us forward as well.

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Manhattan's Chelsea Neighborhood



One of two important venues for dance performances in New York City's gay-popular Chelsea neighborhood, the Joyce Theater is also one of the Manhattan's art deco icons. (Photo by Andrew Collins)

Out of Town
by Andrew Collins

As recently as the mid-1990s, relatively few visitors spent time in Chelsea, the neighborhood on Manhattan's west side between Midtown and Greenwich Village. Today, however, Chelsea abounds with gay bars, cool restaurants, diverting shops, avant-garde galleries, and an increasing number of hotels. It's become arguably the city's hottest destination for gay visitors, and a wonderful neighborhood to spend a weekend or short vacation.

This part of the city was developed in the 1830s by clergyman Clement Clark Moore, author of "A Visit from St. Nicholas" ("Twas the night before Christmas..."), whose family owned most of the area. Well into the mid-20th century, Chelsea was a drab, lower-income neighborhood where workers at nearby garment factories and river docks lived in cheap boardinghouses and rickety, airless tenements. But as gays began moving here in the '70s and '80s, gentrification gradually took hold. And in recent years, the neighborhood has developed cachet among both residents and visitors as one of the trendiest areas in the city as well as one of the nation's most dynamic gay communities.

Chelsea comprises roughly the blocks between 5th Avenue and the Hudson River, with 14th Street forming the neighborhood's southern boundary. Most locals consider 23rd Street to be its northern edge, but others argue the border extends as far north as 28th or even 32nd Street. For all practical purposes - particularly in terms of retail, dining, and clubbing - you'll find the most intriguing businesses between 14th and 23rd streets. And where gay-popular establishments are concerned, the main drag is 8th Avenue, with 7th Avenue a close runner-up. Additionally, 9th and 10th avenues have witnessed the tide of gentrification in recent years, particularly as top galleries have moved into the western reaches of Chelsea.

The neighborhood offers little in the way of attractions, unless, of course, you count shopping as a form of sightseeing. If you wander along West 20th through West 27th streets in the block west of 10th Avenue, you'll find storefront after storefront of cutting-edge art galleries - check out www.chelseaartgalleries.com for details on upcoming shows. Fans of dance should note two important neighborhood institutions: the art deco Joyce Theater, which hosts high-quality dance companies throughout the year, and the dramatic Dance Theater Workshop, around the corner, which also presents acclaimed concerts throughout the year. The neighborhood draws plenty of foodies to its Chelsea Market, a bustling concourse of gourmet food stalls in which you'll find tantalizing Thai food, savory soups, fine wines, heavenly baked goods, and lots more.

In fact, restaurants have become one of the neighborhood's leading draws. There are the obvious bastions of gay social life, such as Viceroy and Food Bar for rather standard American chow, and campy VYNL, which is known for its eclectic Asian and international dishes, plus outstanding martinis. Gym buffs on high-protein diets favor Better Burger, with its menu of lean, char-grilled burgers and fresh-squeezed juices. Other hot spots include the funky Thai restaurant Room Service, known for such kicky creations as Thai-spicy tuna salad and chile-rubbed salmon; and Suenos, which serves some of the most innovative regional Mexican fare in the city - be sure to try the duck-confit quesadillas with poached pears and ancho chiles.

For weekend brunch, don't miss East of Eighth, which turns out first-rate contemporary American food and offers lively cabaret in the evenings. Few spots are more popular at lunchtime than Dish, a glorified diner of sorts, which is also known for its relaxing Saturday and Sunday brunch. Snackers and noshers will find plenty of toothsome options, including F&B Gudtfood for gourmet hot dogs and European-style street food, Murray's for some of the city's finest bagels, and Pinkberry, for the mysterious yogurt-esque frozen-dessert snacks that have taken the city by storm.

The Little Black Book

See Andrew's top picks on page 33

On the west side of the neighborhood, you can count on the Red Cat for a terrific meal of creative American fare, such as a fantastic paprika-roasted cod with spicy escarole and an anchovy-almond sauce. At cozy Tia Pol, choose from a long list of outstanding Spanish tapas, while the much-hyped Craftsteak is your go-to for superb cuts of beef - it's part of Tom Colicchio's (of TV's _Top Chef_) growing restaurant empire.

Chelsea has become the epicenter of gay nightlife in New York City (although it's fair to say that the Hells Kitchen and East Village neighborhoods provide plenty of competition). There are the trendy spots, such as G Lounge, a sea of coiffed and smartly dressed men hobnobbing around a central bar or relaxing in mod lounge chairs; and the long-running Splash, a two-floor temple of chic gay clubbing known for its go-go dancers and throbbing music. Quirky Barracuda cultivates a mixed arty and cruisy bunch, while the bilevel Eagle caters to the usual set of bears, leather men, and ardent porn enthusiasts (old-fashioned blue movies play on the video screens).

Rawhide is an old-school neighborhood bar with an age-diverse following, and the friendly Gym Sportbar has become the darling of the post-workout crowd. Locals hangouts like View Bar and XES can seem empty or bustling depending on the night, and a couple of pulsing warehouse discos, Rush and Stereo, round out the scene.

Chelsea has relatively few hotel rooms compared with other key Manhattan neighborhoods, but it's a 10- to 20-minute walk (or a short cab or subway ride) from the scads of hotels in Midtown. What you will find in Chelsea, however, are several properties with reasonable rates, most catering heavily to the gay market. A favorite of history buffs is the raffish Hotel Chelsea, the city's tallest building when it was built in the 1880s. This bohemian hostelry has been the home of all sorts of fascinating characters, from William Burroughs to Jasper Johns to Allen Ginsberg. Just up the street, the modern and rather basic Chelsea Savoy Hotel has a terrific location at the corner of West 23rd Street and 7th Avenue, and rooms here can run as low as $99 nightly.

Among the big chains, there's a Four Points by Sheraton Manhattan Chelsea on West 25th Street, and the Hampton Inn Chelsea on West 24th Street. Both of these are clean, well-managed, and affordable. This hip neighborhood is rapidly developing, though, and within a few years you'll find a number of additional hotels to choose from. For instance, the trendy hotel brand Indigo is planning a 122-room property for 127 West 28th Street, to open in early 2009.

And, just a short walk east of Chelsea in a similarly vibrant area, you might consider the uber-cool W New York Union Square, a swank stunner that occupies the 1911 beaux-arts Guardian Life building and contains Todd English's bustling Olives restaurant and Rande Gerber's see-and-be-seen Underbar. Or check into Ian Schrager's luxuriously re-imagined Gramercy Park Hotel, a glam boutique hotel overlooking the elegant park of the same name.

Among smaller, gay-oriented properties, a reliable pick is the Chelsea Pines Inn, which occupies a charming 1850s town house in the heart of the neighborhood. Rooms with semiprivate bath (sink and shower are in your room, but the toilet is shared with several other rooms on same floor) start at $140, while rooms with private baths begin at $175. An even better value, with rates beginning around $130 for shared-bath units, the Chelsea Lodge is set along handsome West 22nd Street and contains 22 cozy, clean, and pleasantly furnished rooms. When you consider that generic, bland chain properties in Midtown can charge well over $400 per night, these two intimate and friendly Chelsea hideaways are a real bargain. And you can use the money you save to dine well in the neighborhood's dozens of inviting eateries.

Continued on page 33>

Andrew Collins is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA and eight additional travel guides. He can be reached care of this publication or at

Common Roads' Winter heARTS Huge Success

Greg King

Winter heARTS chief organizer Greg King says "We received rave reviews from all who attended." The week-long venue is a fundraising and community outreach effort by Common Roads, an organization the region's glbt youth youth. The event celebrated the 15th anniversary of the group.

"The Kinsey Sicks were a hit. Club XS pulled out all the stops," King says.

Jazmyn Stephyns was crowned the Queen of Winter HeARTS having raised $500 for Common Roads.

MJ's Coffeehouse helped by hosting "Priscilla Queen of the Desert." The venue also offered Open Mic nights in Lancaster, Carlisle, and Millersville coffeehouses.

"We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who came out to help celebrate our 15th anniversary," King says.

Photos by Bruno

1) The Kinsey Sicks had the audience rolling the aisles with their parodies of familiar songs. 2) Common Roads celebrities Jake Reisinger, left, husband of first executive director Carol Reisinger, right, with Winter heARTS organizer Greg Smith, middle, president, Garretson Tile. 3) Local celebs John and Russ Boggs. Now one year old, Boggs almost single-handedly organized the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. 4) Chad Lighty and Stan Wagner speak about their experiences at Common Roads. 5)Power couple Ben Dunlap, Jr and David Leas are or have been part of nearly every philanthropic effort involving the gay community and many other worthy efforts in the region. 6) Chris Donchak expresses his heartfelt gratitude for the support of Common Roads. 7) Curtis Fenstermacher, Common Roads president, reviews the organization's progress. 8) Queen of the Ball Jazmyn Stephyns raised $500 in support of the event. 9) Michelle Simmons, Common Roads executive director, acknowledges the hard work of many volunteers.

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Rainbow Pride Rural Project

This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg.
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BENEFIT AUCTION AND BREAKFAST *- With proceeds from a breakfast and auction benefiting Pride and Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, Pride Chair Dave Walker, Ginny Rogers, Josie Byzek, Joe Kershner, and William O'Donnell enjoy breakfast at Liquid 891. (right) Debbie Magliette and Rosemary Mirocco, acted as benefit organizers on behalf of Community Church of the Spirit.*

Evelyn Bertoni Loves Selling Subarus

Originally from Lewisburg, Faulkner Subaru sales representative Evelyn Bertoni was graduated from Bucknell University with a B.A. in Psychology. Just as psychology helps people solve problems, so does her product.

What led Bertoni from psychology to car sales? In a word - divorce. "I was not able to support myself as an entry level counselor after my divorce," she explains. Much to the chagrin of her friends and relatives, she moved into the car business.

"I always tell people in my life who question why I am in a business that does not require a college degree in psychology that I'm merely helping people solve a different kind of problem," Bertoni says. "And I really enjoy my customers who are a wonderful cross section of Harrisburg's population. They come from all walks of life and expand my world in ways I cannot describe," she says.

In one survey, some 40% of gays polled planned to buy or lease a new vehicle in the next 12 months versus 18% of non-gays surveyed. Subaru fancies itself the industry pioneer in courting the gay and lesbian market with tailored ads.

"We started marketing about 10 years ago, and it was based upon research we had done," says Rick Crosson, Subaru vice president-marketing. "The gay and lesbian community had already found us – particularly the lesbian community. They had already selected us as a car that they used, that fit their lifestyle and that they used to be able to fulfill their lifestyle."

Why is Subaru a quality car purchase?

"It's a quality buy for anyone looking for a safe and reliable vehicle from a manufacturer who has no equal. The makers of Subaru strive to leave the land in better shape than they found it," Bertoni says. The manufacturing plant in Indiana is the only one of its kind with the land surrounding the plant a wildlife preserve. "Subaru produces almost zero landfill," she points out.

"Subaru is a company that cares about ideas, issues, and people. I am proud to represent their line," Bertoni says. She also cares about ideas and issues, and especially loves all things canine. "I have two pit bull mix rescues and I'm a member of the Humane Society Auxiliary, Harrisburg Humane Society, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, Central PA. Animal Alliance. Bertoni is also a founder of the Merrick Fund Foundation, a second tier organization dedicated to providing funds for emergency care for stray animals.

Full service - "We're fully comitted to meeting the needs of today's digital customer, says Faulkner Subaru Mazda general manager Matt Smith. Their web site - www.faulknermazdasubaru.com – offers the latest in fast track auto dealer services.

"Once you're a Faulkner client," Smith says, "you have the option of scheduling appointments by filling out our online service appointment form. Also, if you need parts, you can use our online parts order form at your convenience."

Customers will find a full service orientation at the dealership.

Shuttle Service is available to all service customers from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to any destination within a 15 - 20 minute radius including your home, office, or the local mall.

Amenities are offered to all customers who use Faulkner's service department. They have a comfortable waiting room with TV, magazines, and the best coffee in town. "We also offer Early Bird Night Drop Service," says Smith.

All Service Techs are ASE certified and factory trained. "Our service department uses state-of-the-art diagnostic machines and computerized equipment. We have a well-stocked parts department and honor all competitor coupons," Smith says.

Competitive pricing is the norm. "All normal maintenance and light repairs are discounted to very competitive levels and follow all manufacturer recommended maintenance schedules," Smith says. Written service estimates are available upon request with "No charge" for estimates if Faulkner performs repairs.

Faulkner Mazda Subaru is a fully Certified Collision Repair facility. "We are the place to bring your Mazda or Subaru collision work. In addition, we do collision repair on all makes and models," Smith says.

Faulkner even offers access to insurance quotes. "We have state of the art online services to help you reach most major insurance companies with faster results and as painlessly as possible," Smith says.

The Little Black Book: Manhattan's Chelsea Neighborhood

Continued from previous page

- *Barracuda 212-645-8613).*
- *Better Burger 212-989-6688*
- *Chelsea Lodge (212-243-4499 or 800-373-1116, (www.chelsealodge.com)*
- *Chelsea Market (www.chelseamarket.com)*
- *Chelsea Pines Inn 212-929-1023 or 888-546-2700, (www.chelseapinesinn.com)*
- *Chelsea Savoy Hotel (212-929-9353 or 866-929-9353, (www.chelseasavoynyc.com)*
- *Craftsteak 212-400-6699*
- *Dish 212-352-9800*
- *Eagle 646-473-1866*
- *East of Eighth 212-352-0075 (www.eastofeighth.com)*
- *F&B Gudtfood 646-486-4441, (www.gudtfood.com).*
- *Food Bar 212-243-2020*
- *Four Points by Sheraton Manhattan Chelsea 212-627-1888, (www.fourpoints.com).*
- *G Lounge 212-929-1085, (www.glounge.com)*
- *Gramercy Park Hotel 866-784-1300, www.gramercyparkhotel.com)*
- *Gym Sportbar 212-337-2439, (www.gymsportsbar.com)*
- *Hampton Inn Chelsea 212-414-1000, (www.hamptoninn.com)*
- *Hotel Chelsea 212-243-3700, (www.hotelchelsea.com)*
- *Murray's 646-638-1336*
- *Pinkberry 212-488-2510, (www.pinkberry.com)*
- *Rawhide 212-242-9332*
- *Red Cat 212-242-1122, (www.theredcat.com)*
- *Room Service 212-691-0299, (www.roomservicerestaurant.com)*
- *Rush 212-741-4918*
- *Splash 212-691-0073, (www.splashbar.com)*
- *Stereo (no phone,) (www.stereony.com)*
- *Suenos 212-243-1333, (www.suenosnyc.com)*
- *Tia Pol 212-675-8805, (www.tiapol.com)*
- *View Bar 212-929-2243, (www.viewbarnyc.com)*
- *Viceroy 212-633-8484*
- *VYNL 212-400-2118*
- *W New York Union Square 212-253-9119, (www.whotels.com)*
- *XES 212-604-0212, (www.xesnyc.com)*

social and recreational organizations:

Susquehanna Club
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 61478 Harrisburg, PA
Contact: John Bowermaster
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: secretarysvbears@yahoo.com or info@svbears.com
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle.
Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401, Harrisburg
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Central Voice Exclusive:

Dear John

See "Desperate Living" May 24 with original cast, including Mink Stole and others.

Continued from page one

From his list of "still to come," one could easily wonder if Waters ever sleeps. Hairspray is still running on Broadway and Waters was just finishing four days of "previews" on Cry-Baby, also set for Broadway, when he spoke to Central Voice. "It's coming along really well. You know what previews are – cutting, rearranging, but we're poised for a successful show," he says.

Speaking of cutting and rearranging, Waters tells us he writes on legal pads with Bic pens and then "I use a scissor to cut my work into sections and tape together, maybe for up to two drafts then I have it put onto a computer. I use a comoputer everyday but not for writing." When writing he uses "industrial-like headphones that block out so much sound I couldn't hear myself pee."

He's also working on a new book about role models, although he never gives out details about projects underway. "It's back luck, but I will say it's about people who have influenced me, including Tennessee Williams." As a 12-year-old boy, Waters would look up Williams' name in the card catalog at the library and it would read "see Librarian."

"I wanted these 'see Librarian' books," he says. So when the kindly librarian was helping the "normal" kids with their book reports, Waters "sneaked behind the checkout desk and stole the first book I ever wanted to possess on my own. 'One Arm' read the forbidden cover on a short-story collection by Tennessee Williams." None of this is surprising since he was reading Variety by 12, absorbing the mag's lexicon of insider lingo. "I really liked exploitation movies with lurid ad campaigns," he says.

"Of course, I knew who Tennessee Williams was. He was a bad man because the nuns in Catholic Sunday School had told us we'd go to hell if we saw that movie he wrote, "Baby Doll" - the one with the great ad campaign, with Carroll Baker in the crib sucking her thumb, that made Cardinal Spellman have a nation-wide hissy fit. The same ad I clipped out of The Baltimore Sun countless times and pasted in my secret scrapbook. The movie I planned to show over and over in the fantasy dirty-movie theater in my mind that I was going to open later in life, causing a scandal in my parents' neighborhood," Waters riffs.

Years later, Tennessee Williams saved Waters' life again. "The first time I went to a gay bar I was 17 years old. It was called the Hut and it was in Washington, D.C. Some referred to it as the Chicken Hut, and it was filled with early 1960s gay men in fluffy sweaters who cruised each other by calling table-to-table on phones provided by the bar. 'I may be queer but I ain't this,'" I remember thinking.

Still reading everything Williams wrote, "I knew he would understand my dilemma. Tennessee never seemed 'gayly-correct' even then, and sexual ambiguity and confusion were always made appealing and exciting in his work. Williams didn't fit into his own minority, so I had the confidence not to either. Gay was not enough," Waters says. He recently wrote the Introduction to a new edition of "Memoirs," Tennessee autobiography, published by New Directions.

Waters can still set a caper into motion. "Yes, it's true, I was given a tour of the airport men's room that was visited by Sen. Larry Craig. I saw the infamous stall but didn't enter. I made a joke about a movie called "Last Stall To The Left" and Craig's List picked it up and the fun went on from there."

Waters honed his future directorial skills by giving puppet shows for children's birthday parties. As a teen-ager, he made 8-mm underground movies influenced by the likes of Walt Disney, Andy Warhol, and Ingmar Bergman.

Using Baltimore, which he fondly dubbed the "Hairdo Capitol of the World," as the setting for all his films, Waters assembled a cast of ensemble players, mostly native Baltimoreans and friends of long standing: Divine, David Lochary, Mary Vivian Pearce, Mink Stole and Edith Massey.

When he saw "The Wizard of Oz" Waters remembers that he was "the only kid in the audience who couldn't understand why Dorothy wanted to go home when she could live with winged monkeys and have magic shoes and gay lions. I didn't get it."

His goal, he says, is not to shock but merely to surprise. Often suprising to fans, Waters has always been on good terms with his devoutly Catholic parents. They've even helped finance his early efforts. "They were at times frightened and uneasy like any parent would be, but my father helped pay for Pink Flamingo although he never say the movie. And I paid him back," Waters says.

Let's pay back Waters by attending his one-man show and sharing in his fun insanity.

Water Plant Upgrades Cause Sticker Shock

Continued from page one

rate payers of the Williamsport Sanitary Authority, which serves about 50,000 people, could see their quarterly water and sewer bills jump from $60 to $190. Scranton is looking at a $37 million tab to upgrade its wastewater treatment plants, of which $16 million is to pay for nutrient reductions. Hazelton's sewage plant will need a $29 million upgrade, of which $15 million is for Bay-related nutrient reductions.

Unlike their counterparts in Virginia and Maryland, who are getting hundreds of millions of dollars in state grants to help pay for Bay-related upgrades, Pennsylvania municipalities have been left largely on their own to meet the goals.

"There is a lot of resentment that no help is coming," said state Sen. Patricia Vance, a Republican who represents portions of Cumberland and York counties. "I want to make it very clear, it's not that any of us think we shouldn't clean up the Chesapeake," Vance added. "That is not the issue. The issue is, how does one fund it?"

She and others were disappointed in February when Gov. Ed Rendell, despite mounting complaints about the costs, proposed a budget with no new money targeting the problem. Instead, he promised to name a panel to study statewide water infrastructure issues.

Administration officials have said they do not support new state taxes to support the upgrades. Instead of grants they say facilities should use existing loan programs or participate in the state's fledgling, and controversial, nutrient trading program.

"The governor does see there is an issue and a concern," said Neil Weaver, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection, "but he also realizes that there have been other options out there."

The state developed a tributary strategy-its road map for meeting Pennsylvania's portion of the cleanup goal-which called for reducing the amount of nitrogen reaching the Bay to 71.4 million pounds from 112.7 million in 2000. The lion's share of that reduction, 32 million pounds, would come from agriculture.

But the strategy also called for "point sources" - wastewater treatment plants and industries - to reduce nitrogen discharges reaching the Bay from 12.7 million pounds to 10.5 million pounds a year.

In December 2004, Pennsylvania joined the EPA and other jurisdictions in the watershed in signing a policy requiring that tributary strategy goals for dischargers be written into permits for point sources.

After that, Pennsylvania officials contend they spent more than two years in meetings with stakeholders, including wastewater treatment plant operators, discussing how the goals would be incorporated into legally enforceable permits.

"We've been talking about this for years," Weaver said. "Everyone was on board."

But as plant upgrade estimates came in, municipalities have gotten sticker shock.

The original tributary strategy had estimated the point source cost at about $376 million. State officials frequently cited an even lower number - $190 million.

According to the Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association, which represents wastewater plant operators, 44 plants have received engineering estimates to date. The cost for nutrient upgrades at those facilities is $512 million. Association officials say they expect the total cost for nutrient-related upgrades to be around $1.2 billion. Because the upgrades are typically being combined with other improvements, the actual bill to wastewater authorities could be twice that.

The DEP disputes those figures, although it now pegs the cost at about $620 million.

Weaver said the higher estimates assume all of the plants will require costly construction upgrades. "This is not a mandate for them to have to take the capital projects to upgrade their facilities," Weaver said.

Instead, he said, the DEP is encouraging plants to take advantage of the state's nutrient trading program, which allows wastewater treatment plant operators to meet their obligations by purchasing nutrient reduction "credits" from farmers or other dischargers who have reduced nutrients.

To settle the question, the state Senate in February unanimously approved a resolution introduced by Vance directing the legislative Budget and Finance Committee to determine how much the upgrades will cost.

"Let's find out the true price and quit fooling around," Vance said. "That's the bottom line."

PA Nutrient Reduction at a Glance:

Problem: *States sharing the Chesapeake Bay watershed - PA, MD, VA, DE, NY, W VA and Wash., DC - agreed to reduce by 2010 the average annual amount of nitrogen and phosphorus reaching the Bay. For nitrogen, that means the 285 million pounds a year estimated for 2000 would be reduced to 175 million pounds per year by 2010. Phosphorus would be reduced from 19.1.million pounds per year to 12.7 million.*

Goal: *Reduction goals were divided among the states. PA's obligation is to reduce nitrogen from 112.7 million pounds to 71.9 million annually. The state's phosphorus reduction goal is from 3.5 million pounds to 2.3 million annually.*

Method: *PA has adopted a phase approach. Larger plants start must meet 2010 levels through structural changes, upgrades, or trades. New discharges must be factored into future plans.*

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